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NARRATIVE

OF THE

LOSS OF THE SHIP HERCULES,

COMMANDED BY

CAPTAIN BENJAMIN STOUT,

ON

THE COAST OF CAFFRARIA,

THE 16th OF *JUNE*, 1796:

ALSO,

A CIRCUMSTANTIAL DETAIL OF

HIS TRAVELS

THROUGH THE

SOUTHERN DESERTS OF AFRICA,

AND THE COLONIES,

TO

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

WITH

AN INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS

TO

THE RT. HON. JOHN ADAMS,

PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS OF AMERICA.

LONDON, PRINTED:

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TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

JOHN ADAMS,

PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

OF THE UNITED STATES OF

AMERICA.

SIR,

IF this volume be tranſmitted acroſs the Atlantic, and ſhould find its way to your hand, receive it as the voluntary homage of a native American, who from his earlieſt life hath been taught to venerate your virtues and your talents. A work, like the preſent, which has for its object the diffuſion of ſcience, the promotion of civilization through the unexplored regions of Africa, and the eſtabliſhment of colonial ſettlements in that fertile but neglected quarter of the earth, cannot be addreſſed to any individual with more propriety than to you—Succeeding our illuſtrious Waſhington in the chair of the people, your conſtitutional influence muſt be extenſive, and there lives a powerful advocate in your boſom, for the ſucceſs of every meaſure that has a tenden-

cy to alleviate the ſorrows of humanity. The untutored tribes of America have already experienced the beneficence of your nature, and I am now deſirous to arreſt your attention and intereſt your feelings, on behalf of thoſe wandering children of nature, who are ſcattered over the deſerts of the African world; a race of unoffending mortals, long perſecuted by thoſe *enlightened Savages*, who, under the appellations of *chriſtians* and *Dutchmen*, ſettled themſelves by violence on the ſouthern promontory.

To me, Sir, this is a ſubject that takes full poſſeſſion of all my affections. Caſt, with ſixty of my people, on the ſhores of *Caffraria*, after combating the horrors of a tempeſt, which I believe has but few parallels in the hiſtory of naval misfortune (and which will be fully deſcribed in the ſucceeding narrative,) I found in the natives a hoſpitality, and received from them a protection, which on many of the ſhores that belong to the poliſhed nations of Europe I might have ſought for in vain. Theſe unfortunate inhabitants of *Caffraria*, who have been ſo often and ſo wickedly denominated ſavages, that delight and revel in human ſlaughter, I found poſſeſſed of all thoſe compaſſionate feelings, that alone give a luſtre to, and adorn humanity; living in a ſtate of perpetual alarm from the perſecuting and avaricious diſpoſition of the coloniſts, and inſtructed by their fathers to conſider a *white*

man as a being, who never heſitates to murder when plunder is in view. Still a juſtifiable revenge yielded to the virtuous impulſe of compaſſion, and our neceſſities were generally relieved, without even the proſpect of a recompence. When thrown, by the raging of the elements, on the ſandy ſhores of their country, we were all unarmed, not having ſaved from the wreck a ſingle article, either for our defence, clothing or ſubſiſtence; in this ſituation, we were completely at the mercy of the natives; but inſtead of remembering and revenging the wrongs they and their predeceſſors had endured from the *ſavage whites*, they made a fire to dry us; they ſlaughtered a bullock, which they gave us for our ſubſiſtence; they conducted us to a ſpring of the moſt limpid and wholeſome water, and when we were enabled to travel, furniſhed us with guides through the deſerts of their country. Such was the conduct of a people, who have been deſcribed as barbarians, poſſeſſing no other ſemblance of the human character than what they derived from their formation.

After having attempted thus to pay the debt of gratitude to my liberal benefactors on the continent of Africa, I ſhall now endeavour to draw your attention to thoſe commercial benefits which I conceive may be obtained by eſtabliſhing a colony from America, on that part of the coaſt where the ſhip I commanded was unfortunately wreck-

ed, or on ſome other part of the ſouthern continent, which may, from its fertility, invite a ſettlement. I ſhall give you my ſentiments freely on this occaſion, becauſe I do not conceive that any of the European nations have a right to interpoſe. The *Dutch*, who formerly poſſeſſed the Cape of Good Hope, but which, on my arrival there, I found in poſſeſſion of the *Engliſh*, encouraged colonization to a certain degree, and their people have, within this century, proceeded into the interior, cultivated lands, and formed ſettlements 400 miles diſtant from the Cape. As theſe coloniſts advance, they hunt the unfortunate natives as they do the lion and the panther, diſpoſſeſs them of their lands by force, rob them of their cattle, and, by every poſſible means, endeavour to effect a total extirpation of the original and unoffending inhabitants. This inhuman conduct muſt ſurely meet the execration of every man not totally loſt to the feelings of humanity; but ſtill it may be alledged, that, having once poſſeſſion of theſe lands, no matter how obtained, their right is eſtabliſhed, and they cannot be diſpoſſeſſed by a foreigner, as ſuch a conduct is not warranted by the law of nations. I ſhall admit (but for the purpoſe only of elucidating the matter in queſtion,) that ſucceſsful violence gives a title to the poſſeſſor, and that the coloniſts, as far as they have penetrated, are lawfully entitled to theſe

eſtates; ſtill this argument does not apply, ſo as to exclude an American, or any other foreigner, who ſettles at a diſtance (ſuppoſe 100 miles) from the moſt advanced colony belonging to the government of the Cape. It has never been underſtood when the Dutch took poſſeſſion of the *Cape of Storms*, as it was originally ſtyled by the Portugueſe, that they alſo claimed a title to the whole of the ſouthern part of Africa; ſuch an undefined and unlimited claim, muſt at once appear not only preſumptuous, but prepoſterous; and on this ground I argue, that the people of any nation have an unqueſtionable right, provided the natives give their aſſent, to ſettle on ſuch parts of the ſouthern continent of Africa, as do not interpoſe with the lands already in poſſeſſion of the coloniſts. The particular ſpot where I think a ſettlement might be eſtabliſhed with conſiderable emolument to the adventurers, and to the nation from whence they came, I ſhall endeavour to delineate in the courſe of this addreſs, and which, both in fertility and beauty, may vie with the moſt cultivated and admired countries in either *Europe* or *America*.

There is no quarter of our earth ſo little viſited, or known to Europeans, as the continent of Africa. And yet the exploring and colonizing of theſe vaſt regions, were undertaken nearly 3000 *years ago*. TYRE, once ſo famous for her riches and her com-

merce, ſent out a colony which ſettled at Utica, on a fine bay of the Mediterranean, rendered memorable in hiſtory by the death of the ſecond Cato. About ſeventy years after the eſtabliſhment of the commonwealth at Utica, the parent city, encouraged by the ſucceſs of the former emigrants, fixed another colony within thirty miles of them, on a peninſula of the ſame coaſt, and about the ſame diſtance north weſt of that ſpot where the city of *Tunis* now ſtands. This they named *Cape Carthage*, and here was founded that celebrated Republic which ſhook the Roman empire to its centre.

Carthage, though a commercial and enterpriſing Republic, flouriſhed at a diſtant period. Their city was founded 98 years before that of Rome, 846 before the chriſtian æra, and laſted more than 700 years; it was then raſed to its foundation by the Roman legions, cammanded by *Scipio Africanus*, and under the conſulate of *Cn. Lentulus* and *L. Mummius*. This, Sir, was an epoch, when navigation was but imperfectly underſtood; and, although they afterwards became ſuperior to all the cotemporary nations, in the management of their ſhipping, and ſtretching out their arms eaſtward and weſtward, wafted their commerce to Mauritania, Gaul, and beyond the Straits and Pillars of Hercules; yet, even in their progreſſive ſtate, they were intent on exploring and ſettling their own continent after the

example of their parent country. As a proof of this, we have it recorded that *Hanno* made a voyage with a conſiderable fleet round Africa, by order of the ſenate, for the ſettling of diſtant colonies in that part of the world; and there is ſtill extant a Greek verſion of a treatiſe drawn up by Hanno in the Punic tongue, deſcriptive of his voyage and adventures during this memorable undertaking. We are therefore inſtructed by this part of Carthagenian hiſtory, that during the time of Hanno they had beſtowed a very ſerious attention on the ſure ſettlement of the moſt remote parts of Africa; and it is alſo certain that nothing prevented them from carrying their intentions into execution, but the long and exterminating wars in which they were engaged with the Romans, and which at length ended in the deſtruction of their Republic. Had *Carthage* triumphed over *Rome* in the third Punic war, it may fairly be preſumed, that at this day great part of the continent of Europe, now in a ſtate of luxuriant cultivation, would have been a deſert, and Africa the happy ſeat of all the ſciences.

I have touched upon this part of ancient hiſtory, as it contradicts the aſſertions of ſome authors who have repreſented the apparent indifference ſhewn by the Carthagenians to the ſouthern parts of their own country, as totally ariſing from an opinion that moſt of thoſe provinces were compoſ-

ed of an unproductive mass of earth that could not be brought to any profitable cultivation. This is certainly a mistake; but whatever doubts might have been entertained respecting the climate and natural fertility of this portion of the earth, until the year 1652, when the Dutch seized on the Cape, they can have no weight at present, as we now have sufficient information to govern our opinion respecting those points. Within the last thirty years, several intelligent and enterprizing men have penetrated the interior more than 400 miles from the most advanced colony belonging to the Cape, and their opinions are perfectly in unison with mine. *Dr. Sparman*, *Colonel Gordon*, *Major Patterson*, and *Monsieur Valliant*, visited the countries inhabited by the wandering *Hottentots*, the *Auteniqua* country from the mountains to the sea, the *Gonoquais*, the *Caffrees*, the *Namaquois*, and a variety of other parts inhabited by people generally denominated SAVAGES, and the opinion of these gentlemen respecting the natural productions of the earth, the climate, and the immense advantages that might be derived from colonizing these parts, merit indeed a very serious consideration. *Monsieur Valliant*, whose enthusiasm for the improvement of natural history led him into Africa, speaking of the countries through which he travelled on his way into Caffraria, gives the following description of them, and accom-

panies it with obſervations both intereſting and curious.

"As I got further from the colonies," (ſays this wandering naturaliſt) "the country was ſtill more beautiful; the ſoil rich and fruitful. Here nature appeared in all her majeſty; the lofty mountains offering from every ſide the moſt delightful and romantic views I had ever ſeen. This proſpect, contraſted with the idea of the parched and barren ſands about the Cape, made me think myſelf at a thouſand miles diſtance.

"What! exclaimed I, ſhall theſe charming fields, theſe hills and vallies be for ever uninhabited, except by the lion and tiger?

"What a being is the ſordid ſpeculator, whoſe views, bounded by commerce, port fees and cuſtoms, can prefer the ſtorms and dangers of Table-Bay, to the ſafe riding, or natural and charming ports, that are ſo common on the oriental coaſts of Africa."

On this occaſion, a queſtion naturally ariſes, which, from its importance, I think deſerves an unequivocal and decided anſwer. How comes it, that ſo many known advantages could have ſo long eſcaped the vigilant and commercial ſpirit of the Dutch? To elucidate this queſtion, and remove any difficulty that may ariſe from the ſlow advances the Dutch have hitherto made into the interior, I ſhall give you the reaſons adduced by the ſame traveller, as they appear

to me, not only highly appoſite, but juſt and concluſive.

"The advantages the company and colonies might draw from this fine country," (ſays Valliant) "could never have eſcaped the obſervation of the Governor, who once viſited it; but the truth is, public good is uſually ſubordinate to the private advantages of ſome needy adventurers who are intereſted to ſuppreſs every thing that tends to the diminution of their profits. What is a Governor? Generally an unfeeling being, blind to the public good, who is not ſtimulated, nor has any energy but for his own private advantage; who conſents to exile himſelf from his native country for a time, and the firſt article of whoſe political creed is, that being rapidly to acquire a large fortune, every means tending to the accompliſhment of his views, are good and lawful. Full of theſe ideas he departs for his government, arrives, realizes his deſigns, and returns to his country to inſult his fellow-citizens by an inſolent diſplay of that pride and riches, which muſt one day open the eyes of his ſuperiors to means of redreſs, that would not fail to operate to the advantage and proſperity of a numerous colony. He is replaced by a ſucceſſor who enriches himſelf in his turn, and the farce is thus played a hundred times over."

I believe, Sir, this gentleman has drawn the curtain and developed the material fea-

tures of this political drama. But he ſhould not have confined his obſervations to the conduct of the Dutch *governors*, but explained the policy of the Dutch *government* reſpecting their ſettlements in Africa. This being once underſtood, there will be no difficulty in accounting for the ſlender progreſs theſe people have hitherto made in the interior.

The facts are thus explained.

The government at home, when they founded a ſettlement on the ſouthern promontory of Africa, encouraged for ſome time, all thoſe of an adventuring diſpoſition, who were deſirous of ſettling in theſe parts, and likewiſe tranſported a great number of their criminals to the Cape, eſpecially thoſe who had ſome knowledge in the cultivation of land, or were bred to ſome mechanical employment.—In a few years they advanced from 30 to 40 miles, formed ſettlements that amply repaid their labours, and opened a new ſource of commerce to the parent country. The grape flouriſhed beyond their moſt ſanguine expectations, and from which they produced the Conſtantia wine ſo highly valued at this time throughout the nations of Europe. Oranges, citrons, figs, and corn, were ſoon found to yield the moſt abundant crops, nor were their cattle leſs fruitful in their propagation and quality.

The proſperous ſituation of the firſt adventurers, tempted others to quit Europe, and ſettle in Africa. They proceeded farther into the interior, and found the lands as they advanced from the Cape, increaſe in fertility. They reared cattle and corn in abundance, but were not ſo conveniently ſituated for trade as thoſe who were ſettled nearer the Cape; it was, however, fruitleſs to complain, as they had no other market. Again, others came, and advanced ſtill farther, until at length their numbers became formidable. The firſt ſettlers as they increaſed in wealth increaſed in haughtineſs; they erected manſions on an expenſive ſcale from the Cape to Table-Bay, formed pleaſure grounds and gave entertainments in the Aſiatic ſtile of magnificence. Theſe people, although frequently inſolent to the Governor, were however, eaſily managed, as their properties were contiguous to the Cape, and of courſe within the graſp of his authority.—Thoſe who were farther advanced having ſmarted under reſtrictions and goaded by perſecutions, were leſs tractable and frequently made a common cauſe with thoſe coloniſts, who being ſtill farther advanced from the ſeat of government, paid but little attention to the mandates of authority. To ſuch lengths did they proceed in their oppoſition to the orders of the Governor, that on a certain occaſion, when he threatened them with military execution as

a punishment for their disobedience, the sent him word, that every soldier he dispatched on such business, would be sent back to him in *pickling tubs ;* at the same time, giving him to understand that they could bring 10,000 men into the field.

The Governor perceiving their strength and disposition, proceeded no farther than menaces ; but this transaction confirmed the opinion which was long entertained by the Dutch government, that if colonization was not *checked* in Africa, their settlements in that quarter would be endangered. From the adoption of this policy, founded on the apprehensions of the government at home, we learn the true reason why a greater part of the southern continent has not been settled since the Dutch took possession of the Cape in 1652, and accounts for the heavy restrictions that have been laid upon the colonists in general.

Some of these restrictions, however, are, in my opinion, not only unjust, but impolitic likewise ; and that you may be competent to form a correct judgment on this occasion, I will state a few occurrences that came under my own observation during my abode with the farmers on the confines of Caffraria.

On my arrival at what is called the first christian settlement, I experienced a very cordial and hospitable reception. My people were supplied with whatever they could

ſpare, and this relief was adminiſtered upon terms that manifeſted a genuine diſintereſtedneſs. On my deſcribing the beauties of the countries through which we paſſed, and at the ſame time expreſſing aſtoniſhment at their being unoccupied by chriſtian ſettlers, I was informed, that ſo deſirable an event could never take place, as long as the Dutch remained in the poſſeſſion of the Cape. "We are, (ſaid theſe people) although living on the confines of the deſerts, ſo barbarouſly perſecuted by our rulers, that we are unable to proceed. In our neighbourhood, and on our own farms, we have the richeſt *lead-ore*, and ſo near the ſurface, that we can ſcrape it up with our hands; and yet, were we to melt and uſe a ſingle pound of it, the puniſhment would be *tranſportation to Batavia*. On our coaſt, particularly near the bay of Algoa, we have the fineſt timber in the world; and, although it could be conveyed to the Cape by ſea at the moſt trifling charge, yet our government ſupplies their ſettlement with that valuable commodity from Europe, and, as you may ſuppoſe, at an expence which muſt be enormous. We live in hope however, (continued theſe coloniſts) that ſome nation more liberal than ours, will form a ſettlement on the eaſtern or weſtern coaſt, that we may get ſupplied with ſuch articles as are neceſſary to our ſituation, and will trade with us on principles of mutual advantage."

Throughout the whole of the colonies as I journeyed to the Cape, I found this ſentiment univerſally prevailed; they were all deſirous of having ſome trading and liberal people ſettle either on the Eaſt or Weſt coaſt, at a certain diſtance from the moſt advanced colony belonging to the Dutch. This prevailing diſpoſition in the coloniſts, I mention for the purpoſe of demonſtrating the practicability of the meaſure I recommend; for it is certain, that any oppoſition from the Cape to ſuch a ſettlement muſt be nugatory, as it would be ſupported by the united ſtrength of all the colonies.

The limits of the Dutch coloniſts have been hitherto confined to the borders of Caffraria, and in ſome places to the borders of the Fiſh-River. The following anecdote will explain the ſentiments of the natives reſpecting this limitation.

When the chriſtian farmers had generouſly ſupplied my people with neceſſaries, and which I have before ſtated, I made them acquainted with the loſs of the Hercules near the mouth of the river Infanta. After ſeveral conſultations on this ſubject, they reſolved to paſs into Caffraria with a certain number of waggons, and proceed to the wreck. To get poſſeſſion of the iron was the chief object of the undertaking, and they ſolicited one *Abraham Moore*, who was my ſteward, to accompany them. I gave him permiſſion to return, and they accord-

ingly proceeded on the journey. When they arrived on the beach near which the Hercules was wrecked, the Caffrees aſſembled in conſiderable force, and in a menacing tone of voice, deſired to know "*how they dared to paſs the Fiſh-River.*" The coloniſts acquieſcing in the juſtice of this interrogation, purchaſed their permiſſion to remain for a certain time, by giving them beads, trinkets, and ſome other trifles with which they ſeemed perfectly ſatisfied.

This anecdote, in ſome degree, corroborates what I have before ſtated, that a ſettlement in thoſe parts, provided it is with the conſent of the natives, and which could be obtained at the moſt inconſiderable expence, could not be fairly oppoſed by any power poſſeſſing the Cape. Theſe people, although denominated Savages, are ſtill the proprietors of theſe countries, never being diſpoſſeſſed of them; the inheritance is in them alone, and they have an unqueſtionable right to diſpoſe of it to whatever nation they may think proper, and for ſuch a conſideration as they may deem an equivalent.

The part of Africa, which in my opinion invites at this day a new ſettlement, is Caffraria. This country, which ſkirts the Eaſtern coaſt for many hundred miles, and ſtretches into the interior to a conſiderable extent, abounds in timber of the beſt quality; poſſeſſes many excellent harbours; is bleſſed with the richeſt paſturage that feeds

innumerable herds of the fineſt cattle; the lands during the ſeaſon favourable to vegetation are carpeted with flowers that perfume the ſurrounding atmoſphere, and their ſhores are frequented by fiſh of every quality and deſcription.

Such natural bleſſings lead us to contemplate the happy conſequences that muſt neceſſarily ariſe, not only from the cultivation of ſo fine a country, but the civilization of a race of mortals, whoſe only *crime* is their *colour*, and whoſe misfortunes ſince the firſt ſettlement of *chriſtian ſavages* in their country, no feeling heart can contemplate for a moment, without horror and compaſſion.

In *Caffraria*, and throughout the greater parts of the ſouthern continent, the climate and the ſoil ſeem to demand the cultivation of the *grape*. In no country which has been yet diſcovered, could a greater variety of of excellent wines be produced. The vineyards of *Conſtantia*, which are ſituated near the Cape, and flouriſh in a ſterile ſoil, when compared to thoſe of Caffraria, elucidate this fact; and the experiments which the farmers have been able to make in the more advanced ſtations of the colonies, leave no room for controverſy on this ſubject. *Tobacco* has been raiſed in the Dutch colonies by ſuch of the farmers as could procure a plant; and although few were acquainted with the neceſſary treatment, either in its growth or manufacture, the produce in

ſome places has been ſuch, as to exceed their moſt ſanguine expectation. Here the barbarous policy of the Dutch government interpoſed, and the poor coloniſts were diſcouraged from rearing this indiſpenſable commodity; they were obliged either to ſend or travel to the Cape for their tobacco, as well as moſt other articles, which they obtained by barter, and at an expence which ſeemed to exceed all bounds of uſurious dealing. The *ſugar-cane*, although not native to theſe countries, it is ſuppoſed could not fail in the ſouthern parts of Africa; the ſoil, the climate, every thing invite the experiment. On my conſulting thoſe people in Africa who were acquainted with the growth of the ſugar-cane in the Weſt-Indies, and the nature of the lands on which it flouriſhed moſt, I found they were decidedly of opinion, that in the ſouthern parts of Africa this commodity might be reared, and brought to as high a degree of perfection as in other parts of the globe. They went ſtill farther, and avowed it alſo as their opinion, that not a *ſpice* which grew in *Ceylon*, or the *Dutch colonies* in the *Eaſt*, but would flouriſh in the ſouthern part of Africa. *Fruits* of almoſt every denomination have been reared in the colonies; *oranges*, *lemons*, *citrons*, *figs*, *apples*, *pears*, *apricots*, *peaches*, &c. have been cultivated in certain diſtricts, and moſt of them with every imaginable ſucceſs. There could be no difficulty, therefore, in extend-

ing theſe productions to every part of the ſouthern continent.

Such are the capabilities of this delightful country; and, as I apprehend, nothing is wanting to perfect the whole but the exertions of a wiſe and liberal government, I have recommended the eſtabliſhment of a colony from America in theſe parts to your conſideration. I muſt, Sir, at the ſame time, acknowledge that ſome very cogent reaſons may be adduced to ſhew the impolicy of ſuch a meaſure. It may be fairly alledged, that America hath deſerts of her own to clear away and cultivate; that ſhe hath Savages on her own borders to civilize, and eſtabliſh as uſeful members of a regular community; and as the countries under the dominion of the United States are of ſuch prodigious extent, and but feebly populated, all plans for colonizing foreign parts muſt be relinquiſhed, or at leaſt ſuſpended for a century to come. Theſe reaſons, I own Sir, have conſiderable weight; but ſtill they are not, in my opinion, ſo entirely concluſive, as to preclude all further conſideration of this important ſubject. A ſingle ſettlement on the coaſt of Caffraria would, in my opinion, amply repay the expence, and the number of people neceſſary to the completion of ſuch an undertaking, including both ſexes, might be confined to *one thouſand*. Theſe ſurely could be ſpared, and might be obtained without difficulty. The people of A-

merica muſt have ſeveral articles eſſential to their commerce which they cannot find at home, but might be had in profuſion from a ſettlement in Africa. The naturaliſt, whether his genius led him to the ſtudy of ornithology or botany, would have a noble field in theſe regions for his reſearches, and the natives rendered ſavage by long and reiterated perſecutions, would, by kind and gentle treatment, ſoon embrace the advantages ariſing from a ſtate of civilization.

Theſe unoffending people have been moſt groſsly abuſed; they have been deſcribed as beings of the moſt ſavage diſpoſition, delighting in blood, and of a nature as cruel and untractable as the fierceſt animals of their deſerts. But theſe, Sir, are the calumnies of their *Chriſtian perſecutors*, and have been fabricated for the atrocious purpoſes of deception. Take the reverſe of this picture, and you will perceive the genuine character of the native African; compaſſionate, generous, hoſpitable to thoſe who do not come to injure or deſtroy him; truly grateful for benefits conferred, and not yielding in this cardinal virtue, to the moſt benevolent pupil of the ſciences. Without ever having entertained the moſt diſtant conſideration of a Supreme Being, or the exiſtence of a future ſtate, his virtues are dictated by the genuine feelings of his nature, and expecting no reward, nor dreading any puniſhment in a future life, for his conduct in this, ſtands a

pre-eminent character on the roll of virtue and philanthropy. I ſpeak of theſe people as I found them; and from this knowledge I form an opinion, that ſo far from their interrupting any ſettlement of the nature I have before alluded to, they would hail the American, when they were convinced of his juſtice, as their friend, their protector and deliverer.

I have before obſerved, that on my arrival at the Cape, I found that ſettlement in the hands of the Engliſh; and as it is not improbable but when that happy period arrives, when the European nations ſhall cloſe the preſent ſcene of human butchery, this ſettlement may become a part of the Britiſh empire, I ſhall venture to deſcribe the good conſequences that in all probability will ariſe to *England* from the poſſeſſion of this ſettlement and its dependencies.

The Britiſh at this time receive their tobacco from America; but they are ſo wealthy and enterpriſing a people, and ſo intent on making ſettlements abroad, eſpecially ſuch as have the leaſt tendency to improve their commerce, that it would be ridiculous to imagine, ſo great a benefit as the cultivation of this article in the ſouth of Africa, could eſcape their notice. The inhabitants of the Cape, and the coloniſts in general, entertain a ſtrong predilection in favour of the Britiſh, and the ſegacity of the Engliſh government will ſoon point out the means of perpetuat-

ing their friendſhips. I can foreſee, that on the eaſtern and weſtern coaſts, ſettlers from England will be eſtabliſhed, and the natives treated with more humanity and policy than what they have hitherto experienced. If by any chance, the Weſt-India iſlands ſhould be loſt to them, or any natural convulſion of the ſeaſons render them for a certain time unproductive, the Britiſh ſettlements in Africa might amply ſupply the deficiency, and their markets of rum and ſugar be univerſally ſupported. Corn, fruits of all kinds, ſkins of various denominations, ivory, tortoiſe ſhell, oſtrich feathers, and many other articles, that would give their trade a wonderful augmentation, might be all had from theſe parts.

The advantages ariſing from the poſſeſſion of the Cape, and thoſe which might be derived from colonizing the ſouthern part of the African continent, are fully underſtood at this time by the Engliſh and French governments. This was clearly manifeſted in the courſe of the negociation which took place at Paris, early in the ſummer of the preſent year. When *Lord Malmſbury*, who was the plenipotentiary on the part of England, came to diſcuſs that part of his miſſion which reſpected the Cape of Good Hope, he ſtrenuouſly inſiſted on this ſettlement being ceded to the crown of England. *De la Croix*, who acted in a ſimilar manner on the part of the French republic, as ſtrongly inſiſted

on its being reſtored to the Dutch; and in giving his reaſons for making this requiſition a cardinal point in the negociation, diſcovered a very competent knowledge of the ſubject. He very ſagaciouſly obſerved, that the Cape, in the hands of the *Dutch*, could be of very little uſe, except furniſhing a convenient place for ſhipping to touch at, on their voyage to the Eaſt-Indies; but in the hands of the *Engliſh* (ſaid De la Croix) the ſouthern territory of Africa would be colonized, and a new ſource of commerce in all probability ariſe, the advantages of which are incalculable. Here the republican plenipotentiary entered into an elaborate and perſpicuous diſcuſſion of the ſubject; demonſtrated what the active genius of the Engliſh, moving on ſo great a ſcale, would produce, and how the preſent trade of the European nations would be injured, by opening to that nation, ſuch a new and fertile ſource for commercial adventure. From theſe diſcuſſions, the people of both nations have acquired a more competent knowledge of the ſubject than formerly; and this gives an obſtinacy to both their demands, which I believe in a great meaſure impedes the way to reconciliation.

In ſtating what occurred on this ſubject at Paris, I give a certain weight to my own opinion. It is true, I have lately traverſed a conſiderable part of the ſouthern continent of Africa, and form my judgment from

what I have *seen*, and from what I have *learnt* of the natives and the coloniſts; but it is to be ſuppoſed that both the Engliſh and French plenipotentiaries have been very properly inſtructed on this important ſubject, altho' they never viſited the countries, for the poſſeſſion of which they were contending.

The people of England formerly conſidered the Cape as a *half-way houſe* to their ſettlements in the Eaſt-Indies, and appreciated its value in proportion to the accommodation which was given to their ſhipping; but at preſent they are better informed, and now underſtand, that, although the poſſeſſion of that ſettlement muſt be of conſiderable benefit to their Aſiatic commerce, as a place of refreſhment and ſupply, ſtill, this advantage bears no proportion to thoſe which may be derived from the cultivation of the interior. I am perfectly convinced they are right in this opinion; but it is not improbable, they are as yet unacquainted with the full extent of the benefits that may be derived from the ſettlement of theſe countries. If on the map a direct line be drawn from Cape *Agulhas*, which is the ſouthern extreme of Africa, about N. N. E. as far as 25 degrees South, which takes in *Delagoa* bay on the Eaſt coaſt, and that part of the Weſt which is but little frequented, it will be perceived that a ſurface of territory may be acquired of a prodigious extent, and comprehending countries on which na-

ture has beſtowed her choiceſt favours. This portion of Africa is fairly open to the government of the Cape, provided the natives can be induced to conſent to the eſtabliſhment of European coloniſts, and their acquieſcence could be ſoon obtained, by gifts of little value to the donor, and their allegiance ſecured by a kind and liberal treatment in the courſe of their negociations. The country, once eſtabliſhed on theſe principles, would ſoon become productive, and ultimately prove of more value to the Britiſh empire, THAN ALL THEIR SETTLEMENTS IN THE EAST AND WEST INDIES PUT TOGETHER. I know, Sir, this will be conſidered as a bold aſſertion; but it ariſes from a poſitive conviction in my mind; and therefore I deliver it as an opinion, which has been the reſult of general obſervation and enquiry.

In treating of the ſouthern continent of Africa, I cannot, however, ſubſcribe to the reports of ſome pretended travellers, who have repreſented the *whole* of theſe regions as highly prolific. I underſtand this is not the caſe. In the countries of the Little and Great *Namiquois*, *Kabobiquois*, *Houzouanas*, *&c.* which either ſkirt or are contiguous to the weſtern coaſt, there are ſandy deſerts of conſiderable extent; but there are likewiſe immenſe plains of the fineſt paſturage; and it is generally ſuppoſed, from what has been already gathered on the margin of their

ſtreams, that minerals of the firſt claſs are to be found in their mountains. In the eaſtern parts, which include Caffraria, the country of the *Auteniquois*, *Genequois*, and various tribes of the *Hottentot* nation, I perceived a moſt luxuriant ſoil; and on reaching the ſummit of their mountains, the eye frequently repoſed on ſuch a glowing ſcene of paſtoral beauties, that to faithfully delineate the whole, would require the inſpired genius of TASSO, or the MANTUAN. Theſe plains are generally frequented by a kind of antelope or gazelle; and it is not unuſal to perceive from the mountain tops, thouſands of theſe beautiful animals, alarmed by the *lion*, the *tyger*, *hyæna* or the *panther*, ſcouring over the valleys to ſecure a retreat, and forming a moving ſcenery, of the moſt exquiſite beauty.

The natives, as they ſeldom eat bread, are but little acquainted with the cultivation of corn. Beyond the habitations of the coloniſts, a field of corn is ſcarcely to be ſeen; but I believe no part of the world abounds in ſuch flocks of cattle, or furniſhes a greater plenty of game. Theſe countries are juſt what nature made them, and the inhabitants, who erect their huts, and form their *kraals* on the firſt ſpot they find that affords paſturage for their cattle, remain until it is conſumed, and then wander to ſome diſtant part, in ſearch of a more propitious vegetation. The plough, here, never turn-

ed up the ſoil, the uſes of it are unknown, and the natives live moſtly on the produce of the chace. If they are not ſucceſsful in hunting, and the hoorde labours under a temporary want, they ſleep away their time, until, preſſed by famine, they again renew the dangers of the foreſt.

In theſe excurſions, they frequently encounter the *lion*, the *rhinoceros*, the *hippopotamus*, the *buffalo*, the *hyæna*, the *panther* or the *tiger*. All are their food; and they frequently devour them without touching the fire. The oxen, which they poſſeſs in ſuch abundance, it might reaſonably be ſuppoſed, would protect them from want; but the natives prefer the fleſh of the wild and carnivorous animals of the deſert, to the moſt delicate and nutritious parts of the ſheep or the ox. The latter are kept by them, chiefly, as beaſts of burden, or for the purpoſes of war; and in training them for offenſive operations, they diſcover a moſt extraordinary ſagacity. They not only inſtruct the ox to charge an enemy with all his ſtrength, but in the confuſion of the battle, to diſtinguiſh his friends, and aſſiſt them in the combat. Theſe creatures are alſo inſtructed to protect their flocks from the ravages of ſuch wild animals as range the deſerts in queſt of food, and are tremendous in their conflicts with them. In many of theſe countries, oxen are ſo numerous, that one of the fineſt, not trained to war, may be frequently pur-

chaſed for a ſingle *nail*, and a ſheep given in exchange for a *glaſs bead* or a *bit of wire*.

It has been remarked by ſeveral intelligent Europeans, who have penetrated into the ſouthern continent of Africa, that moſt of the hoordes they viſited were compoſed of people of great natural ſagacity, and of an active and enterpriſing diſpoſition. In civilizing theſe tribes, it would be neceſſary to take eſpecial care, that all the European coloniſts, who have hitherto advanced into the interior, ſhould be prevented from acting offenſively againſt the natives, and that the new comers on the eaſtern and weſtern coaſts ſhould purchaſe the lands they immediately occupied, from the native proprietors, and obſerve the ſame conduct as they proceeded into the country. In all their dealings with the ſavages (for ſo they are called) a moſt rigid attention ſhould be obſerved; and as ſome of their communities are highly tenacious of female continence (although others are of a contrary diſpoſition) all improper connexion with their women ſhould be ſeverely puniſhed. Totally unacquainted with the uſe or management of fire-arms, they ſhould be kept for ſome time in that ſtate of happy ignorance, until, by a mutual intercourſe with the Europeans, they become enlightened, and learning to cultivate the lands, eſtabliſh a local habitation. To effect this deſirable purpoſe, the utmoſt care ſhould be alſo obſerved to

keep them unacquainted with every kind of ſpirit. Such of them as have already taſted theſe intoxicating poiſons, will ſell their all to poſſeſs them. Although in their dealings, they will frequently reject articles of real utility, ſuch as iron, tobacco, &c. yet the moment a bottle of *rum* or *brandy* is produced, their reſolution ſinks, and a ſingle glaſs is ſure to conclude the bargain. The conſequences are often dreadful; once intoxicated, they become really ſavage, and, deſpiſing danger, ruſh into enormities of the moſt tremendous deſcription.

Throughout the greater part of the ſouthern continent of Africa, which I have before delineated, the natives have no ſettled places for their reſidence.—They occaſionally wander from place to place, as their neceſſities direct, and frequently commence hoſtilities with each other, for the poſſeſſion of certain diſtricts, where vegetation is more productive, and water contiguous. As they conceive all right to be derived from power only, the ſtrongeſt hoorde takes poſſeſſion, until they find it neceſſary to ſeek again ſome new habitation, or yield in their turn to a ſucceeding conqueror.

In this ſtate of nature live a people that might be rendered civilized, and happily engaged in all the uſeful occupations of ſociety. But I have heard, Sir, of a tribe of Africans, who inhabit the mountains of theſe parts, that are naturally ſo untractable

as to preclude all hope of their ever being induced to mingle with any ſociety but their own.—Theſe are denominated *Boſhis-men*, or *Men of the Woods*, and have been deſcribed by travellers, as vagrants of the different hoordes, who after being expelled by their brethren for bad conduct, have united in the mountains, formed a community of their own, and rob, murder and deſolate without diſtinction.

This account, Sir, is not entirely correct. The *Boſhis-men*, it is true, wage perpetual war with every hoorde, and plunder wherever they come. They are not, however, the outcaſts of other tribes, but a *diſtinct race of men*. The Africans in general, at leaſt ſuch as came under my obſervation, are a tall, robuſt, active people. On the contrary, the *Boſhis-men* are perhaps the moſt diminutive race that have been yet diſcovered in any part of the world. They very ſeldom exceed four feet ſix inches in ſtature, but are as nimble and alert as their gazelles. In the day time, they generally keep in their *kraals* on the mountains; but at night, they deſcend in purſuit of plunder, frequently travel to a diſtance almoſt incredible, and return to their habitations before the morning dawn. Such a people ſhould moſt certainly be exterminated, if not capable of civilization; but this idea ariſes from a total ignorance of the human character. *Man* is only a *ſavage* from *habit*; he is ever capable of

receiving inſtruction, and analyſing in his own mind by the powers of his reaſon. Poſſeſſing the organs of ſpeech, he can communicate his ideas; and when moulded by education, the *ſavage* is ſeen no more, but he enters into ſociety with all thoſe advantages which other men experience from inſtruction. To ſay, therefore, that any race of mortals are *naturally ſavage*, and of courſe not capable of enjoying the bleſſings of civilization, is a dogma ariſing from ignorance, or a want of due conſideration.

The war now raging in Europe, may, for ſome time, prevent any ſettlement of the nature I have attempted to deſcribe, from taking place. But it is probable, that when the nations are at reſt, the government poſſeſſing the Cape of Good Hope, will direct its moſt ſerious attention to this ſettlement. At the preſent moment, the delightful country of *Caffraria*, and many of thoſe ſituated on the weſtern coaſt, are fairly open to American adventure, or to any other nation that may conſider theſe countries as deſerving their conſideration. If the Cape be reſtored to the *Dutch*, a very different policy, from what they have hitherto obſerved, ſhould be adopted. How far the late revolution, which has taken place in Holland, will change the national character of theſe people, and, by expanding their minds, teach them to found their commerce on the principles of *humanity* and *juſtice*, time alone;

muſt diſcover. If, on the contrary, the Cape of Good Hope be ceded to the crown of England, I make no queſtion but the Britiſh will ſoon eſtabliſh colonies on the eaſtern and weſtern coaſts, which, in conjunction with their ſouthern poſſeſſion, muſt effectually ſhut out every other nation from interpoſing with that part of Africa.

At preſent, if we take a view of the general ſtate of Europe, and in conſidering this ſubject, direct our attention more eſpecially to England, we ſhall obſerve how eſſential to her future commerce, the colonizing and cultivating thoſe parts muſt ultimately prove. The French Republic have accompliſhed an object which for centuries they have been attempting in vain, and which they conceive muſt, in the courſe of a very few years, give their trade a decided preference to that of England. They have conquered the *Belgic provinces*, and the Emperor hath ceded theſe countries for ever to the French Republic. *Antwerp*, the great depot of European commerce, about 250 years ago, looks proudly and confidently to a ſudden reſurrection; ſhe was deſpoiled of her trade by ſhutting up the river that nature gave her; but the French, who have reſtored this navigation, exultingly declare, that by opening the *Scheldt*, they will ſhut the *Thames*. Without giving full credit to this expectation, we may reaſonably ſuppoſe, that as moſt of the trade of London came

from Antwerp, much of it will return, and that the French, diffuſing the ſpirit of commercial enterpriſe throughout the whole of their republic, may ſoon induce the Engliſh to look to Africa, as a new ſource of profitable ſpeculation. I do not enter into the preſent avowed policy of both nations, that France and England muſt be either both monarchies, or both republics; the ſword, it is ſaid, muſt determine this point; but to whatever ſide the ſcale may preponderate, both France and England muſt ſtill be trading nations, and foreign poſſeſſions their peculiar care.

The Engliſh have dependencies, particularly in the Eaſt, of immenſe extent, and they enjoy the advantages of a conſiderable population. But who can tell where the revolutionary principle that now makes ſuch gigantic ſtrides throughout the continent of Europe will ſtop at laſt? If, from any unforeſeen occurrence, the Britiſh ſettlements in India ſhould become independent, their poſſeſſions in Africa would amply recompence the misfortune; and, although ſuch an event is not conſidered in England as within the ſcope of probability, yet I have ſeen in India what was ſufficient to convince me that to guard againſt ſuch a contingency, would, at this day, be a prudent meaſure in the Britiſh government.

Perhaps it may be obſerved, that when the ſpirit and diſpoſition of the preſent times

are conſidered, England will not be induced to plant colonies in Africa, as ſuch a meaſure might lay the foundation of a future independency formed on the principles of the repreſentative ſyſtem. I do not imagine, Sir, that any apprehenſion of this kind deſerves, at preſent, a moment's conſideration. What may happen, in the revolution of centuries, it is impoſſible to foretel; another Palmyra may be raiſed in Caffraria, and the deſerts, now the habitations of the lion and the rhinoceros, may, in future ages, be the favorite ſeat of the muſes, and vie with the ancient Balbeck in the magnificence of her palaces. But, Sir, theſe are poſſibilities which even the teleſcope of the mind can hardly diſtinguiſh. The ſame objections might be ſtarted againſt the Britiſh ſettlements in new South Wales, and with infinitely greater weight, as they are contiguous to their provinces in India; and, in time, may become one of the moſt powerful nations of the earth.

The Dutch coloniſts, I have before obſerved, menaced the government of the Cape in more inſtances than one, and have ſhewn a diſpoſition to be freed from the Batavian yoke; but theſe coloniſts were, in the firſt inſtance, badly choſen, and afterwards as badly managed. Moſt of them were convicts from Holland, and when ſent into the country bordering on the Cape, were in a great meaſure left to their own diſcretion.

To regulate the future conduct of these people, and prevent all depredations on the natives, it will be only necessary to place settlements on the eastern and western coasts, and establish a line of communication across this part of the continent. By these means the present colonists would be prevented from advancing into the interior, unless by permission of the government, and their conduct always subjected to the controul of the laws. In a few years the whole might form a regular establishment, and wisely conducted, would remain for centuries the most valuable possession of the crown of England.

I have hitherto, Sir, in the course of this address, principally considered the settlement of the Cape, and those countries which might be fairly obtained from the native proprietors, as containing within themselves all the means necessary to a most extensive and profitable traffick. But as they are situated in the neighbourhood of one of the largest and finest islands in the world, the African colonies become invaluable. It is perhaps unnecessary to observe, that I mean the island of Madagascar. This country, which is nearly 1,000 miles in length from North to South, and 300 in breadth, is situated not 350 miles from the S. E. coast of Africa, and abounds in *cattle*, *corn*, *fish*, *fowl*, and all those animals and vegetables found on that continent.

It has been a ſubject of much aſtoniſhment, that no European power hath as yet made a permanent ſettlement on the coaſt of this prolific country, or traded with the natives for ſcarcely any thing but ſlaves.—Now, Sir, what a ſcene is here diſplayed to the genius and commercial ſpirty of the Engliſh. If they retain the Cape of Good Hope, they at once command the iſland of Madagaſcar; and that a moſt extenſive commerce may ariſe from the joint co-operation of the two countries, under the controul of a liberal and enlightened government, is a fact that admits of no doubt or controverſy whatever.

By endeavouring to explain the advantages, that, in my opinion, would ariſe to the States of America from a ſettlement in Africa, I have done no more than what I conceive to be my duty.—Born in that country, I feel the predominant impulſe of our common nature, that gives the heart an intereſt in all that concerns its native home. But, Sir, as I have been apprehenſive that you would conſider a ſettlement of this deſcription as a meaſure which American policy forbids, I have likewiſe directed my obſervations to the Engliſh nation, whoſe proſperity has ever had a ſecond place in my affections. Their miniſters ſeem to underſtand the value of their late conqueſt in Africa; and therefore, it is to be ſuppoſed, will ſtruggle hard to preſerve it. On this

occaſion, I will venture an aſſertion (which I know, in the eſtimation of ſome people, will be conſidered as ſtretching beyond the bounds of probability) that if England, on the termination of hoſtilities, relinquiſhes all her other conqueſts, and although ſhe hath expended during the laſt five years, two hundred millions in the proſecution of her conteſt with the French Republic, ſtill, if ſhe preſerves the Cape of Good Hope and its dependencies, ſhe will ultimately be a gainer by the war.

I am now, Sir, to deſcribe thoſe ſcenes of horror and misfortune which threw me and my people on the ſhores of Caffraria, as well as thoſe which ſucceeded on our travel through the deſerts. The narrative will form a melancholy detail; but I have been invited to publiſh it, and I have acquieſced from a belief, that ſome uſeful information may be derived from a genuine deſcription of the natives and their country. It is not improbable but ſome, either from curioſity or policy, may in a ſhort time viſit theſe regions; and others may be thrown, like myſelf, on their coaſts naked and defenceleſs. To remove, therefore, ſuch prejudices as have ariſen from the extravagant and deceptive tales of thoſe travellers who have repreſented the natives as monſters, that delight only in human ſlaughter, becomes a duty, as it may encourage future adventurers in their purſuits, and relieve the unfortunate from unneceſſary apprehenſions.

Such are the leading motives that direct my present conduct; and when I contemplate the known features of your mind and character, I indulge the pleasing hope of being honoured with your attention and approbation.

I am, Sir,

With the utmost deference

And veneration,

Your ever faithful servant,

THE AUTHOR.

London, 20th November, 1797.

NARRATIVE

OF THE LOSS OF THE

SHIP HERCULES, &c.

CHAPTER I.

Sailing of the Ship Hercules from Sagar-roads in the province of Bengal.—Deſcription of the Tempeſt.—Dreadful ſituation of the ſhip.—Second mate and three men ordered into the long boat.—Raft prepared.—Carpenter and ſailors addreſs the Captain.—Remarkable inſtance of prejudice and intrepidity in a Laſcar.—The Captain holds a conſultation with his officers.—Determines, if poſſible, to run the ſhip on the eaſtern coaſt of Africa.

THE American ſhip HERCULES, which I commanded, and whoſe fate will be deſcribed in the ſucceeding Narrative, arrived at Bengal about the month of December, 1795. My intention was to take in a private freight for Hamburgh, but not finding one that would anſwer my expectations, I chartered my ſhip to the Britiſh

Eaſt-India Company, who were at that time buſily employed in ſhipping rice for England. Intelligence having reached the ſettlements in India, that a failure of corn throughout the whole of Great-Britain was likely to produce a famine, the moſt active and laudable exertions were made in India to ſupply the markets at home with rice; and I received on board upwards of *nine thouſand bags*, with directions to proceed to London with every poſſible diſpatch. The crew, moſt of which I engaged in India, conſiſted of *Americans*, *Danes*, *Swedes*, *Dutch*, *Portugueſe*, but chiefly *Laſcars*, amounting in the whole, men and boys, to about ſixty-four perſons. The neceſſary arrangements for the voyage being completed, I ſailed from Sagar-roads on the 17th of March, 1796.

Nothing material occurred during the voyage, until the firſt of June following, at which time we reached the Latitude of about 35. South, and 28. 40. Eaſt Longitude. It then began to blow a gale from the weſtward, and which obliged us to lay too under our mizen ſtay ſail for about ſix days.—During this time, the gale continued to blow from the Weſt, but increaſed progreſſively until the ſeventh, when the contentions of the ſea and winds preſented a ſcene of horror; which, perhaps, the annals of marine hiſtory give us no example. Although bred to the ſea from my earlieſt life, yet all I had ever ſeen before, all I had ever heard of or read, gave me no adequate

idea of thoſe ſublime effects which the violence and raging of the elements produce, and which, at this tremendous hour, ſeemed to threaten nature itſelf with diſſolution. The ſhip raiſed on mountains of water, was in a moment precipitated into an abyſs, where ſhe appeared to wait until the coming ſea raiſed her again into the clouds. The perpetual roaring of the elements echoing through the void, produced ſuch an awful ſenſation in the minds of the moſt experienced of the ſeamen, that ſeveral of them appeared for ſome time in a ſtate of ſtupefaction; and thoſe leſs accuſtomed to the dangers of the ſea, added to this ſcene of miſery by their ſhriekings and exclamations.

The terrors of the day could only be ſurpaſſed by thoſe of the night.—When the darkneſs came on, it is impoſſible for man to deſcribe, or human imagination to conceive a ſcene of more tranſcendant and complicated horror. To fill up the meaſure of our calamities, about the hour of midnight, a ſudden ſhift of wind threw the ſhip into the trough of the ſea, which ſtruck her aft, tore away the rudder, ſtarted the ſtern poſt from the hauden ends, and ſhattered the whole of her ſtern frame. The pumps were immediately ſounded; and in the courſe of a few minutes, the water had increaſed to *four feet*. I immediately ordered one gang to work the pumps, and the remainder were employed in getting up rice out of the run of the ſhip, and heaving it overboard, in

order, if poſſible, to get at the leak. After three or four hundred bags were thrown into the ſea, we got at the principal leak, and found the water pouring into her with aſtoniſhing rapidity. In order therefore to decreaſe as much as poſſible the influx of water, we thruſt into the aperture, ſheets, ſhirts, jackets, bales of muſlin, and every thing of the like deſcription we could find. Had not theſe exertions been attended with ſome ſucceſs, the ſhip muſt certainly have gone down, although our pumps delivered fifty tons of water in an hour.

Theſe pumps, to the excellent conſtruction of which I owe my life, were made by Mr. Mann, of London, and I mention his name on this occaſion, not only as a teſtimony of my ſincere eſteem, but for the purpoſe of recommending ſuch uſeful talents to the general attention and encouragement of the community.

As the next day advanced, the weather appeared to moderate. The men worked inceſſantly at the pumps, and every exertion was made to keep the ſhip afloat. We were at this time about two hundred miles from the caſtern coaſt of Africa.

On the ninth, although the violence of the tempeſt had in a great meaſure ſubſided, yet the ſwell of the ſea was tremendous. I ordered, however, the long-boat to be got out; but having reaſon to ſuſpect that ſome of the crew would endeavour to make off with her, I directed my ſecond mate and

three ſeamen to take poſſeſſion of her. I gave them arms, and alſo expreſs orders to ſhoot the firſt man who attempted to board her without my permiſſion.—I alſo inſtructed them to keep aſtern, but to ſtick by the ſhip until we came to an anchor.

The men having taken their ſtations in the boat, I ordered a raft to be made of all the large ſpars, which was accordingly done. The whole when laſhed together meaſured about 35 feet in length, and 15 in breadth. As I apprehended the ſhip could not make the land, and was convinced, in caſe of her going down, that all the people could not be received into the long-boat, I determined not to neglect any meaſure that preſented even a chance of ſaving the whole.

When my ſecond mate was preparing to obey my orders and take command of the long boat, the carpenter requeſted me earneſtly to leave the ſhip.—On my reprimanding him for not attending to the pumps, the man burſt into tears, and declared, that the whole of the ſtern frame was ſhook and looſened in ſuch a manner, that he expected every hour ſhe would go down. The miſerable appearance of this man, and the affecting tone of voice in which he delivered his apprehenſions, I perceived had already increaſed the terrors of the crew. I therefore told him, that I would perform my duty, and ſtick to the ſhip until I was convinced from my own obſervation that all hope of ſaving her was at an end.—He repeated his

ſolicitations, and I then commanded him to leave me, aſſuring him at the ſame time, that unleſs he made every exertion to encourage the people in their duty, and immediately go himſelf to the pumps, I would, however painful to my feelings, have him thrown into the ſea. He retired, and exerted himſelf afterwards with a manly perſeverance.

I was immediately addreſſed on the departure of the carpenter by many of the ſailors, and on the ſame ſubject.—They were ſo clamorous, and differed ſo much in their opinions, that I was nearly going to extremes with ſome of them.

I mention theſe circumſtances as a caution to future navigators, who are entruſted with a command. They too frequently liſten to the opinions of their people in time of danger, who are generally for quitting the ſhip and taking to boats, maſts, yards and ſpars formed into rafts, or whatever timbers they can laſh together; indeed, as the prejudices and ſentiments of the common ſailors on theſe occaſions are ſo various, it is not to be ſuppoſed that any thing can ariſe, from ſuch a miſtaken conduct, but confuſion and misfortune.

A crew, ſuch as mine, compoſed of people of various nations, require indeed from their commander a peculiar attention. It may happen, that by humouring their *religious prejudices* at a particular moment, an eſſential ſervice may be obtained; and as

the following remarkable anecdote tends to eludicate this opinion, I will ſtate the circumſtances preciſely as they occurred.

At a period when the tempeſt raged with the utmoſt violence, I had directed moſt of the crew below, particularly the Laſcars, to work the pumps. One of them, however, I perceived coming up the gang way with a handkerchief in his hand; and on my enquiring what he was about, he told me, and in a tone of voice that diſcovered a perfect confidence in the meaſure he propoſed, that he was going to make an offering to his God. "This handkerchief," ſaid he, "contains a certain quantity of rice, and all the rupees I am worth; ſuffer me to laſh it to the mizen-top, and rely upon it, Sir, we ſhall all be ſaved."—I was going to order him back again to the pumps; but recollecting that in ſo doing I might throw both him and his countrymen into a ſtate of deſpondency, and thereby loſe the benefits of their exertions, I acquieſced. The Laſcar thanked me, and I ſoon beheld this child of prejudice mount the tottering ladder without diſcovering a ſingle apprehenſion. He laſhed the hankerchief to the mizen-top-maſt-head, fearleſs of all danger, and arrived in ſafety on the deck. After aſſuring me *his God* was now my friend, he went below to inform his brethren, that he had done his duty; all the Laſcars ſeemed tranſported with joy, embraced their virtuous companion, and then laboured at the pumps

with as much alacrity and perſeverance, as if they had encountered, before, neither apprehenſion nor fatigue. To their unceaſing labours, I owe in a great meaſure the preſervation of my people.

The ſhift of wind which threw the ſhip into the trough of the ſea, and tore away the rudder, was fortunately but a ſquall of ſhort duration, not continuing above a quarter of an hour. Had it laſted but a little longer, the ſhip muſt have been torn to pieces. The wind came round to its former quarter, and moderated gradually.

After the long boat had been delivered to the care of my ſecond mate, and the raft completed, I held a conſultation with my officers, and they were all decidedly of opinion, that it was impoſſible to ſave the ſhip, and that we had no other chance to preſerve our lives, than to make the land and run her on ſhore.

The people, when informed of the iſſue of this conſultation, appeared to work with renovated ſpirits. We kept up this diſpoſition by aſſuring them we ſhould ſoon be within ſight of land, and that by conſtantly working at the pumps, the ſhip would be kept afloat, until we reached the ſhore.

The ſhip for ſome time being unmanageable, frequently ſtanding with her head from the land, which all our efforts could not prevent, I got a rudder made out of the top-maſt, and fixed in the place of the one we had loſt; but it was found of little

uſe without the help of the long-boat, which I ordered therefore to be hauled athwart the ſtern, and this ſerved, although with the greateſt difficulty, to get her head towards the ſhore, the wind being variable from the eaſtward. A cable could have been got out, that might have anſwered tolerably well to ſteer the ſhip; but the people could not be ſpared from the pumps to attend rouſing in on the tackles, or guiſe, as occaſion might require.

On the evening, however, of the 15th, we diſcovered land, at about ſix leagues diſtance. All on board at this moment expreſſed their joy in ſhouts and acclamations. The ſhip ſtill kept nearing the ſhore with five feet water in her hold.

On the 16th, in the morning, being then about two miles from the land, and the wind from the weſtward, I ordered the anchor to be let go, that a laſt effort might be made to ſtop the leaks, and, if poſſible, ſave the ſhip.

But her ſtern was ſhattered in ſuch a manner, that, after holding another conſultation with my officers, it was finally reſolved to run the ſhip on the coaſt then oppoſite to us. Another gale threatened us, and no time was to be loſt.

I immediately ordered my ſecond mate, who was in the boat, to come on board, and I then delivered into his cuſtody the ſhip's regiſter, and all the papers of conſe-

quence I had. After providing him and his three men with water and proviſions, I ordered him into the boat again, with directions to keep in the offing; and that after we had run the ſhip on ſhore, provided we got ſafe to land, I would ſearch for ſome inlet into which he might run with ſafety. I deſired him alſo to look out for ſignals which would be occaſionally thrown out from the ſhore to direct his courſe. He faithfully promiſed to obey my inſtructions, and then returned to his boat.

CHAPTER II.

Ship run on ſhore on the Coaſt of Caffraria.—Dreadful ſituation of the crew.—Their manner of landing deſcribed.—Their reception by the natives. Some curious and intereſting particulars reſpecting Captain Coxſon, *commander of the Groſvenor, loſt on the ſame coaſt, in* 1782, *and of ſeveral of his people, particularly a Lady, who is now living with a Caffree Chief.*

WE were now on the coaſt of *Caffraria*, within a few leagues where the river *Infanta* diſembogues itſelf into the ſea.

A dreadful criſis approached, and we agreed to meet it with becoming fortitude. I therefore gave directions to ſet the head ſail, to heave the ſpring well taut, in order to get her head towards the ſhore, and then to cut the cable and the ſpring. My orders were obeyed with the greateſt promptitude.

After running until within ſomething leſs than half a mile of the ſhore, *ſhe ſtruck* on a cluſter of rocks. The ſwell at this moment was tremendous; and from the ſhip's thumping ſo violently it was ſcarcely poſſible for the men to hold on. In this ſituation ſhe remained for about three or four minutes, when a ſea took her over the rocks, and carried her about a cable's length nearer the ſhore where ſhe again ſtruck, and kept heaving in with a dreadful ſurf, which every moment made a break over her.

The laſhings, that held the raft, having given way, and the ſpars carried to a conſiderable diſtance from the ſhip, we loſt all hope from that quarter.—At length, one of the crew, who was a black, plunged into the waves, and by exertions which ſeemed more than human, gained and ſeated himſelf on the raft.——He ſcarcely remained in that ſituation for ten minutes, when the whole was turned over, and the man completely enveloped in the ſea. In a few moments, however, we perceived him in his former ſeat. Again he endured a ſimilar misfortune; and a third ſucceeded.—Still he buffeted the waves, and gained the raft, until at length, after ſuffering two hours of fatigue, which, until then, I could not poſſibly imagine human nature could ſurvive, he drifted on ſhore.

The natives, who had kindled ſeveral fires, appeared in great numbers on the ſhore. They were moſtly clothed in ſkins, armed with ſpears, and accompanied by a vaſt number of dogs. A party of them ſeized the man who had landed, and conducted him behind the ſand-hills that line the coaſt, and which hid him entirely from our view.

Twelve of my people now launched themſelves on different ſpars, and whatever pieces of timber they could find. They braved all difficulties, and at laſt gained the land. No ſooner had they reached the beach, than the natives came down, ſeized and conducted them alſo behind the ſand-hills. As it was

impoſſible for us, who remained on board, to diſcover what they were about, and obſerving ſeveral parties of the natives appear at different times on the ſhore, but unaccompanied by any of my people, we conceived that all thoſe who had landed were maſſacred, and that a ſimilar calamity awaited the whole of us. We, who had remained on board the ſhip, were obliged to ſhelter ourſelves in the fore-caſtle, as the wreck, becoming a fixed object, the ſea made over her, and there was no other part where we could remain, even for a moment, in a ſtate of ſecurity.

During the whole of the night, all was uncertainty. Some were of opinion, that, to avoid being tortured by the ſavages, perhaps thrown into the fires we had perceived on ſhore, it would be more adviſable to reſign ourſelves to a watery element, as in that ſituation we ſhould only endure a few ſtruggles, and then life would be no more. Others entertained different ſentiments, and were for making the ſhore in as compact a body as poſſible: "We ſhall then," ſaid they, "attack the ſavages with *ſtones*, or whatever we can find." This was overruled as a meaſure impracticable; there was no poſſibility of ſix men keeping together, but if ſuch a number could, by a miracle, get on ſhore without being divided, the natives could deſtroy them in a moment with their ſpears. The whole of this miſerable night

was ſpent in ſuch conſultations ; and as the next ſun was to light us to our fate, we trembled at his approaching the horizon.

When the day appeared, we looked towards the ſhore ; but not an individual was to be ſeen. Diſtraction was now viſible in every countenance, and what death to chooſe the principal conſideration.

At length, about the hour of nine in the morning, the ſcene changed in a moment. A delirium of extacy ſucceeded, which no pencil can portray, no being can conceive, but thoſe who beheld it. All the people who had landed the day before, were obſerved making towards the ſhore ; and we ſoon perceived them beckoning and inviting us to land. In a few minutes, every ſpar, grating, and piece of timber that could be procured, were afloat, and completely occupied ; ſome with two people, others with more, according to its ſize. I immediately ſtript off my ſhirt, put on a ſhort-jacket, wrapt a ſhawl round my waiſt, in the corner of which I put a gold watch, and, keeping my breeches on, ſeized a ſpar, and launched into the ſea. For nearly three quarters of an hour I preſerved my hold, and drifted towards the ſhore. Sometimes I was caſt ſo near, as to touch the rocks with my feet, then hurried away to a conſiderable diſtance ; again I was precipitated forward, and in a moment afterwards carried off by the returning ſea. At length a

ſudden jerk occaſioned by the ſwell, ſtrained both my arms, and I was compelled to quit the ſpar. At this inſtant although a conſiderable diſtance from the beach, a wave that was proceeding rapidly towards the ſhore, bore me along, and in a few moments caſt me ſenſeleſs on the ſands. My people, who were on ſhore obſerved my ſituation; they ran down, and, ſnatching me from the danger of the coming waves, bore me to a place of ſecurity. I was inſenſible at this time, but ſoon revived, as they placed me near a fire, and uſed every means in their power for my recovery.

The firſt ſubject of my enquiry, when my faculties returned, was, of courſe, the fate of my unfortunate crew; and I enjoyed the heartfelt pleaſure of beholding them all around me, except thoſe in the long-boat, and one man, who periſhed near the ſhore.

I then addreſſed myſelf to the natives, but on this occaſion I laboured under the difficulty of not being underſtood. I knew nothing of their language, and for ſome time I endeavoured to explain myſelf by *ſigns*. Fortunately there was a Hottentot preſent, who had lived with the Dutch farmers, and could ſpeak their language. My third mate was a Dutchman, and theſe ſerved as interpreters.

This difficulty being happily removed, I endeavoured by every means in my power to ſecure the friendſhip of the natives. I

thanked them in the name of my whole crew, and on the part of my nation, for the liberal and humane assistance they had afforded us in the hour of our misfortune, and solicited their future kindness and support.

This being as I conceived at no great distance from the spot where the GROSVENOR was lost in 1782, I inquired of the natives, whether any of them remembered such a catastrophe. Most of them answered in the affirmative, and, ascending one of the sand-hills, pointed to the place where the Grosvenor suffered.

I then desired to know of them, whether they had received any certain accounts, respecting the fate of *Captain Coxson*, who commanded the Grosvenor, and who was proceeding on his way to the Cape, with several men and women passengers, who were saved from the wreck. They answered, that *Captain Coxson* and the men were slain. One of the chiefs having insisted on taking *two* of the *white ladies* to his *kraal*, the Captain and his people resisted, and not being armed, were immediately destroyed. The natives at the same time gave me to understand, that at the period the Grosvenor was wrecked, their nation was at war with the colonists; and as the Captain and his crew were whites, they could not tell, provided they had reached the christian farms, but they would assist the colonists in the war. This affected my situation so directly, that

I desired to know on what terms the *Caffrees* and the *colonists* then stood.——"We are *friends*," said they, "and it will be their fault if we are not always so."

This answer relieved me from a very serious embarrassment; but the fate of the two unfortunate ladies gave me so much uneasiness, that I most earnestly requested of them to tell me all they knew of their situation; whether they were alive or dead; and if living, in what part of the country they were situated. They replied, and with apparent concern, that one of the ladies had died a short time after her arrival at the *kraal;* but they understood the other was living, and had several children by the chief. —"*Where she now is*," *said they*, "*we know not.*"

After I had received every possible information on this melancholy subject, we employed ourselves principally during the remainder of the day in assisting the natives to save whatever came on shore from the wreck. When they got a piece of timber, they placed it immediately on the fire as the readiest method of procuring the iron, and which they sought after with the most persevering diligence.

When night came on, the natives retired, and we were left to sleep under the sand-hills, without covering and without food. The weather was boisterous, the wind blowing hard from the westward, and the cold severe. We therefore consulted in

what manner we ſhould diſpoſe of ourſelves until the morning, and we at length reſolved, that ſome of us ſhould keep watch during the night, and the reſt place themſelves near the fire, and, if poſſible, obtain a little reſt.

The night paſſed without any of us enjoying a moment of repoſe.—Our bodies on one ſide were heated by the fire; but the cold chilled the other in ſuch a manner, as to render the pain hardly ſupportable. The ſand, driven by the winds in prodigious quantities, filled our eyes, ears and mouths, as we lay under the banks, and kept us in perpetual motion.—We likewiſe entertained apprehenſions reſpecting the natives. I had in the courſe of the day requeſted them to aſſiſt in preparing for our journey towards the colonies; but they received theſe ſolicitations, as I thought, with coolneſs, and did not ſeem willing to part with us ſo ſoon. Perplexed with theſe ſuſpicions, and ſuffering the moſt diſagreeable inconveniences from our ſituation, we waited the approach of morn with the moſt impatient ſolicitude.

CHAPTER III.

The Caffree Chief preſents a bullock to the crew.—The Captain gives him a pair of paſte knee-buckles, and hangs them to his ears.—The Savage highly pleaſed.—The Captain's intereſting converſation with the Chief, about the exiſtence of a Deity.—Former accounts reſpecting their opinion on the ſubject refuted.—The Caffrees procure ſeveral ſhirts, jackets and trowſers from the wreck.—Do not know how to put them on.—Inſtructed by the Captain and his people.—The Caffrees ſuſpected of having an intention to maſſacre or detain the crew.

AT length day appeared, and the Caffrees returned in greater numbers. Their Chief knowing we were in want of food, brought us a bullock, which they immediately ſlaughtered by knocking the animal on the head with clubs, and penetrating its ſides with their ſpears. It was ſkinned almoſt in a moment, and they cut it up in lumps, which they placed on the fire to ſinge rather than to roaſt, and then devoured their reſpective ſhares with the higheſt ſatisfaction. The beaſt, as it was given to us, it might be ſuppoſed, would be left for our diſpoſal; but the Caffrees were hungry, and they knew nothing of European etiquette. It is true, they preſented the bullock to us as a donation; but they ſaw no reaſon why they ſhould not diſpoſe of the greater part of it.

On cutting up the animal, I obſerved they paid a more than ordinary attention to the paunch. Several of the Caffrees laid violent hands on it; and after giving it a ſhake for the purpoſe of emptying the contents, they tore the greater part in ſlips with their teeth, and ſwallowed the whole as it came warm from the beaſt.

Our meal ſuch as it was, being finiſhed, we proceeded to the ſhore, and I obſerved the long-boat at a conſiderable diſtance. We threw out ſignals but could not perceive that they were obſerved. The ſhip was dividing very faſt, and the gale increaſing; many things were therefore caſt on ſhore, which the Caffrees were indefatigable in procuring. A *caſk*, however was thrown on the beach, at the ſight of which I confeſs all my apprehenſions were redoubled. It contained *ſixty gallons of rum*, a quantity ſufficient to have intoxicated the whole of the natives, although they amounted to at leaſt 300. I had heard of their fondneſs for ſuch liquors, and dreaded the conſequences of their being inebriated. The only way left, was to ſteal to the ſpot where the caſk lay, and ſtave in the head without being perceived by them. This I happily accompliſhed, and they afterwards ſtripped the veſſel of the iron hoops, without diſcovering what I had done, or what it formerly contained.

In the general ſearch on the ſhore, one of the Caffrees had picked up the ſhip's com-

pals. Not knowing what it was, yet pleased with its formation, he delivered it to the Chief, who immediately took it to pieces; and after contemplating the various parts, took the copper-ring in which it hung, and suspended it from his neck. He appeared highly pleased with the ornament; and this circumstance, induced me to present him with one still more *glittering*, and of course, in his estimation, more *valuable*. Recollecting that I wore a pair of paste knee-buckles, I took them out, and after having prepared two loops, I hung one upon each of his ears. The moment this was done, the Chief stalked about with an air of uncommon dignity. His people seemed to pay him greater reverence than before, and they were employed for some time in gazing at the brilliancy of the ornaments, and contemplating the *august* deportment of their *chief magistrate*. The European may smile at this recital; the exhibition of my *knee-buckles* may indeed provoke his risibility; but when he treats the feelings of the *savage* on this occasion with contempt, let him bestow a thought on the *star*, the *garter* or the *coronet*, and then make a sensible distinction if he can.

As this donation gave me a powerful interest with the chief, I resolved, during my stay with the Caffrees, to procure every possible information respecting the customs, manners and opinions of these people. Some

travellers have reported, that the natives of Caffraria are the only Savages on the ſouthern continent of Africa who entertain any idea of a Supreme Being. Others have aſſerted, that *all* the inhabitants of theſe regions, are totally ignorant not only of ſuch an exiſtence, but are alſo ſtrangers to any opinion reſpecting a future ſtate.

To be convinced how the matter really ſtood, I embraced the preſent opportunity, and entered into converſation on this ſubject with the chief, through the medium of our interpreters. After giving him a further deſcription of the tempeſt, and the miſeries we had ſo recently endured, I added, "that, as it was the pleaſure of the *Almighty* to afflict his creatures, it would be impious in us to repine at his will."—The *ſavage*, after ſome conſideration, declared, he did not underſtand what I meant by the *Almighty*. I explained to him my ideas of the Divinity. That he was a Being of ſuch tranſcendent power, as to create the *world* on which we lived, the *ſun*, *moon* and *ſtars*; and that they all moved and were directed by his hand. His countenance on this occaſion demonſtrated that his mind was a perfect void reſpecting ſuch opinions; but after a few moments of reflection, he aſked, if the Being I had deſcribed, poſſeſſed a power ſufficient to controul the *ſeas* and the *winds?* I anſwered immediately in the affirmative. Then, ſaid he, "can you tell me his

reaſons for ſuffering the tempeſt to throw you and your people on our coaſt?" I replied, that his reaſons for ſo doing were above our comprehenſions; but that, as he was not only all-powerful, but juſt, we ſhould remain ſatisfied that all his acts were good and beneficent. When this was explained to the Chief, I obſerved a *ſmile* on his countenance; but ſtarting, as if a ſudden and hoſtile thought had ſeized his mind, he deſired to know, if *my Almighty* could "tame the *wild animals* of the deſerts?" I replied, that he certainly could. "If this be true! exclaimed the *ſavage*, he muſt be a very wicked Being, for he ſuffered a LION to *kill* and *eat* my FATHER." As I had obtained the information I wanted, and obſerving the paſſions of the man highly agitated at the recollection of his father's melancholy fate, I thought it neceſſary to change the converſation, and we immediately proceeded towards the ſhore.

The principal part of my people, and moſt of the Caffrees, were employed during this converſation on the beach; and I had the ſatisfaction to obſerve, they had procured ſeveral pair of trowſers, many ſhirts, jackets, pieces of timber, and ſome cordage. I had before picked up *four ſhirts* and a pair of trowſers, which I then wore. The natives ſeemed highly pleaſed with their new habiliments, but they did not know how to put them on. Some had placed the hind part

of the ſhirt before, and others had done the ſame with the jackets and the trowſers. The moment I perceived their miſtake, I went up to one of the Caffrees, who was endeavouring to button the collar of a ſhirt behind, and adjuſted his dreſs. My people did the like with ſeveral others; and theſe civil attentions pleaſed them ſo much, that for ſome time all was merriment, dancing, ſinging, and good humour.

Their revels being ended, I again addreſſed the Chief on the ſubject of our departure. I requeſted he would ſend a guide with us through the deſerts to the firſt chriſtian ſettlement, and that nothing ſhould be wanting on my part to recompenſe his kindneſs. He paufed for a moment, and then very coolly replied, that he would gratify my wiſhes. I begged to know the time when he would ſuffer us to depart. He gravely anſwered, "when I conſider that matter you ſhall be made acquainted with my determination." Theſe anſwers I own alarmed me. The countenance of the ſavage appeared to diſcover ſome hoſtile meaſure that was lurking in his mind; and yet his former conduct was ſo liberal and humane, that I had no juſt grounds for ſuſpecting his integrity. I perceived, however, the natives conſulting together in parties, and from their geſtures we could not interpret any thing favourable to our wiſhes. What ſtill added to our uneaſineſs, was their abrupt

departure. When the day was drawing to a close, they disappeared, and left us to rest under the sand-hills, as on the former night.

We recruited our fires with some timber from the wreck, and then placed sentinels as before. The wind blowing hard from the same quarter, we were again tormented with clouds of sand, and a chilling atmosphere. June being one of their winter months, we had to encounter the severities of the season. It was impossible to shift our quarters, as we could not procure timber to light new fires, and the Caffrees might be displeased at our not remaining in our former situation. The night passed in consultations and gloomy predictions. I told my people not to do any act that might have the least tendency to displease the natives; to give them every thing they asked for, as the inhabitants of these deserts were only to be dreaded when provoked. But, at the same time, if contrary to our expectation they made an attack, or endeavoured to detain us after a certain time, then I hoped we should firmly unite, and either force our way or perish in the conflict.

My people heard me with great attention, and faithfully promised to observe my directions.

When the sun made his appearance, we mounted the most elevated of the sand-hills to look out for the long-boat; but she was

not to be diſcovered in any direction.—In a ſhort time we perceived the Caffrees advancing. Moſt of them had aſſaygays in their hands; others furniſhed with clubs; ſome were decorated with oſtrich feathers, and their Chief wearing a leopard ſkin, with my knee-buckles ſuſpended as before. They ſaluted us in a very friendly manner, and we accompanied them to the beach. The wind had increaſed during the night, and ſeveral parts of the ſhip came on ſhore. One of my people had picked up a hand-ſaw, and as he perceived the Caffrees were indefatigable in procuring iron, he hid it in the ſands.—This was a valuable acquiſition, and became of infinite ſervice to us in the courſe of our proceedings.

CHAPTER IV.

The natives in a ſham fight ſhew their manœuvrings in battle.—Manner of throwing the aſſaygay deſcribed.—The long-boat and crew never ſeen or heard of more.—Caffree Chief conſents to their departure.——Provides them with guides.—Conducts them to a brook of freſh water which ran through the hollow of a ſequeſtered wood.—Apprehenſions of the crew reſpecting the Caffrees deſcribed.—Natives and the crew remain together all night in the hollow.—Freſh alarms.—Caffree Chief preſents the Captain on the next day with another bullock.—The departure of the crew on the enſuing morning, and the kind behaviour of the natives on that occaſion deſcribed.

HAVING ſecured all we could obtain at preſent from the wreck, I requeſted the Chief to order ſome of his people to ſhew me how they uſed their ASSAYGAYS. This is a ſpear of about four feet ſix inches in length, made of an elaſtic wood, and pointed with iron, which they contrive to poiſon ſo effectually that if it wounds either man or beaſt, death is the inevitable conſequence.

My wiſhes were immediately gratified. They firſt placed a block of wood on the ground, and then retired about ſeventy yards from the ſpot where it lay. The chief then told me, I would now behold their manner of fighting when engaged in battle. Theſe compliances, as they ſeemed to remove my former ſuſpicions, gave me great

ſatisfaction. A party of about thirty began their manœuvrings. They firſt ran to a conſiderable diſtance; then fell, as if motionleſs, on the ground; in a moment they ſtarted up, divided, joined again, and ran in a compact body to the ſpot from whence they originally ſet out. After halting for about a minute, they let fly a ſhower of aſſaygays at the mark, and with a preciſion that was truly aſtoniſhing. After ſeveral exhibitions that diſplayed a wonderful dexterity in the management of the aſſaygay, they came up ſmiling to where we ſtood, as if they wiſhed us to deliver our ſentiments on what we had juſt ſeen. I applauded their courage, their conduct, and their agility, and aſſured them, that *when I reached the Cape*, I would repreſent them all to the Governor as a people that deſerved every conſideration and encouragement. When this was interpreted to the Chief, I looked him ſteadily in the face, that I might obſerve what effect it produced. He obſerved only, and with great compoſure, *that he underſtood the Cape was at a prodigious diſtance.* I did not think it prudent to preſs him ſo ſoon again on the ſubject of our departure. I therefore requeſted he would ſuffer me to throw an aſſaygay, and I had the honour of receiving one of his own for the experiment. I appeared ſuch a novice to the Savages on this occaſion, that the Chief inſtructed me how to throw it with effect. This is done

By giving a trembling motion to the wriſt, and as the ſhaft quivers, it is delivered by a ſudden jerk, aided by every ſtrength the arm can afford. I improved ſo much on the ſecond trial, that I had the honour of a ſmile from my preceptor, who appeared to ſay, *if you continue with us, we will make you an adept.*

Not a word more paſſed this day about our departure. The natives retired as uſual on the approach of night, and we to our ſand-hills. All were employed to gather wood for our fires; and after procuring a ſufficient quantity, we ſtretched ourſelves on the ground, and in ſpite of *wind, ſand* and *cold*, ſlept until the morning.

When day appeared, we were again all employed in looking out for the long-boat; but ſhe was not to be ſeen.—We began now to deſpair of ever hearing of her again.—Indeed our worſt predictions were afterwards fulfilled, for we never heard of or ſaw her more.

The Caffrees did not viſit us this day until the ſun had proceeded two hours in his courſe; but at length they came.—As little now was to be procured from the wreck, I begged the Chief to inform me, if he had appointed a guide for us, as I propoſed taking my departure on the *next day*. "I ſhall furniſh you with *two*," ſaid he. Theſe joyful tidings were delivered with ſo much frankneſs, that my mind was relieved at once from all apprehenſion and ſuſpicion.

Deſirous of having the Hottentot who ſerved us as an interpreter to accompany us through the deſerts, I gave the Chief to underſtand how much the ſervices of this man would not only contribute to our pleaſure, but our ſafety. The *honeſt ſavage*, however, had anticipated my wiſhes; he had previouſly mentioned it to the Hottentot, who had conſented to proceed with us to the firſt chriſtian farm. Another of the tribe, who was better acquainted with the country, had likewiſe agreed to be of the party; and this information which I communicated to my people, diffuſed a general joy and ſatisfaction.

After aſſuring the Chief and the Caffrees in general of my unalterable friendſhip, and that our guides ſhould be rewarded to the extent of their wiſhes, I told him we had endured great diſtreſs for want of water, and begged to know where we could procure ſome. "I will conduct you," ſaid he, "to a ſpring of excellent water; it is not far from this place; and, if you think proper, we will proceed directly to the ſpot." —No ſooner was the propoſal made than we ſet out; the Caffrees ſinging and dancing as they proceeded, and my people, although not without ſuſpicion, in tolerable ſpirits.

After travelling weſtward about four miles through a delightful country, we came at laſt to a wood, in the boſom of which we perceived a hollow. The Caffrees deſcend-

ed firſt, and when we all arrived at the bottom, the Chief pointed to the brook. We drank of the water and found it delicious. Our thirſt being allayed, we looked about us, and from the diſmal appearance of the place, our fears were again renewed. My people were moſtly of opinion, that nothing leſs was intended by the Caffrees than to maſſacre the whole party in this ſequeſtered place; that we were decoyed here for that purpoſe; and that every man ſhould prepare to defend his life. I endeavoured to quiet their apprehenſions, and at laſt ſucceeded.

The Caffrees having told us we had better remain here during the night, we began to prepare wood for our fires. All hands went to work, and by the aſſiſtance of our hand-ſaw, we procured ſome dry trees and underwood that afforded us a very comfortable fire. One of the Hottentots who was ſo rich as to poſſeſs a tinder-box, ſtruck a light; and this accommodation being not only highly uſeful but unexpected, gave new ſpirits to the whole of my people.

The natives, as the night came on, did not retire as uſual to their kraal. This gave a freſh alarm to my men; and although I endeavoured to calm their apprehenſions by every means in my power, ſtill I confeſs their uneaſineſs did not appear to be without ſome cauſe. We were obliged however, ſituated as we then were, to abide the event, and we

prepared for the worſt that could happen. Our watch was ſet as formerly; but the *Caffrees* huddling together, were ſoon loſt in ſleep. This place, however diſmal in its appearance, afforded us tolerable ſhelter for the night; we were no longer troubled with clouds of ſand, and the ſeverities of the wind and cold were mitigated by the friendly ſhade afforded us by the trees.

We were rouſed by the ſavages as the ſun appeared, and we departed from this ſuppoſed Golgotha in tolerable ſpirits. We had, however, conſumed the laſt pound of our bullock before we left the ſand-hills, and our party began to dread an approaching famine. I mentioned the diſtreſs of my people to the Chief, and he promiſed to relieve us. We had journeyed but a few miles when the Caffrees told us we muſt remain where we were that night. We accordingly ſet to work to procure fire-wood, and had ſcarcely completed this neceſſary buſineſs, when the Chief preſented us with *another bullock*. It was ſoon diſpatched, ſkinned, cut into pieces of about four pounds each, and we then proceeded to dreſs them as proviſion for our journey. This was a buſineſs of ſo much importance, that moſt of the day was ſpent in accompliſhing it.

The night paſſed with leſs apprenenſion than before, and when the morning came, we prepared for our departure.

The moment now arrived when the real intentions of the Caffrees were to be developed. The natives came about us, and aſſiſted in dividing the proviſions. Each man was to carry his own ſtock, which amounted to about three or four pound of beef; this with ſome biſcuits, which a few of my people contrived to preſerve from the wreck, was to ſerve us until we reached a chriſtian ſettlement. So far from any appearance of hoſtility, the natives ſeemed to view our departure with regret. I took the Chief by the hand, and thanked him for his great and friendly attentions to me and my unfortunate crew; aſſuring him at the ſame time, that if I ſurvived the journey, it would ever be my firſt conſideration to render him and his people ſome eſſential ſervice. He thanked me, and then requeſted I would tell the coloniſts our ſhip was loſt at ſea, and ſo diſtant from the land, that no part of her could poſſibly reach the ſhore. He alſo deſired me to place the utmoſt confidence in my guides, as they would certainly direct me for the beſt. After my people and the natives had exchanged ſome mutual civilities, we parted, and gave one another a laſt and affectionate adieu.

CHAPTER V.

Deſcription of the country near the wreck.—Genuine character of the Tambouchis delineated.—Cauſe of the laſt war between the Coloniſts and Caffrees explained.—Why the Tambouchis did not ſuffer the crew to depart ſooner.—Their reaſons.—Narrative continued.—Crew deſtitute of ſhoes.—Countries through which they paſſed deſcribed.—Alarming ſituation of the party at night.—Not moleſted by the animals of the deſerts.

BEFORE I proceed in this Narrative, I will endeavour to give the reader ſome idea of the country that lay before us when we landed on the beach; a few traits likewiſe of the general character of the natives, and explain their motives for not ſufferingus to depart until the fourth day; and which for ſome time, appeared ſo ambiguous, as to give both me and my people the moſt ſerious inquietude.

During our miſerable abode under the ſand-hills, we frequently contemplated the ſcene before us. Nearly as far as the eye could travel, we beheld a country finely wooded, and conſidering the ſeaſon which was their winter, producing a moſt bountiful vegetation. Their cattle appeared in ſuch prodigious numbers as to baffle calculation; and their condition, which was equal to the beſt fed oxen in Great-Britain, clearly demonſtrated the richneſs of their paſturage. Sheep were not to be diſcovered, nor

could we perceive the moſt diſtant traces of agricultural labour.

The country in our view was of an immenſe extent, yet ſurrounded by a chain of hills that appeared to contain the fountains of thoſe numerous rivulets which glided through the plain in a variety of directions. The *mimoſa tree* appeared native to the ſoil, and the woods were ſo beautifully interſperſed, as to give the lands all the appearance of a plantation originally deſigned by art, and afterwards perfected by the hand of elegance. In my opinion, the whole wanted nothing but villages, corn and inhabitants, to render this ſpot an enviable abode for the moſtenlightenedand luxurious of our countrymen.

The natives who received us on the ſhore, and whoſe humanity we experienced in the hour of our misfortune, are a *Caffree tribe*, known by the apellation of *Tambouchis* or *Tambuckees*. They have been deſcribed as the moſt *ferocious*, *vindictive* and *deteſtable* claſs of beings that inhabit the vaſt and fertile territory of *Caffraria*, not yielding even to the *Boſhis-men*, in every act of maſſacre, inhumanity and devaſtation.

A calumny ſo undeſerved, ſo atrocious, and poſſibly ſo miſchievous in its tendency, I cannot ſuffer to paſs without cenſure and contradiction; nor can I at this moment reflect on the genuine character of theſe people, without conſidering their calumniators as a banditti of *chriſtian* ruffians, who pro-

pagate these slanders for the purpose of covering their enormities; and which, if not stopt by the hand of power must eventually lead to a total extirpation of a harmless and unoffending race. Had they really been *savages*, and felt like their *christian persecutors*, "no compunctious visitings of nature," they would have destroyed the whole of my unfortunate crew, and this massacre might have been perpetrated without the natives running even the hazard of a punishment. The clothing of my people, although of little value in a country of trade and civilization, would have been to them a most important acquisition, or they could have gratified, nay, even *satiated* cruelty, by stripping and leaving us naked to all the horrors of the wilderness, a prey to famine, or the wild and ferocious animals of the deserts. But these humane, yet *calumniated savages*, FELT AS MEN whose souls were truly affected at our misfortunes, and acting from the virtuous impulse of their nature, voluntarily gave to the unhappy, *consolation* and *support*. We were mostly *whites*, but still they were our friends. The black and voluminous catalogue of miseries, which they and their progenitors had so long endured from *savages* of our colour, faded at once on their remembrance when they beheld our distresses.—Such was the conduct, and such are the native feelings of the *honest*, *honest* TAMBOUCHIS.

The profligate character ascribed to these

unoffending people, originated in motives of ſtill ſuperior wickedneſs. The *coloniſts* are the *fabricators* of theſe tales, and propagate them throughout the country, and at the Cape, with uncommon induſtry.—— When the natives incenſed at an unprovoked and deſigned aggreſſion of a coloniſt, retaliates and kills a *white man*, the intelligence is ſure to be conveyed immediately to the ſeat of government, but without ever ſo much as hinting at the real cauſe of the diſpute. The poor ſavages are deſcribed as a heard of *wolves* prowling throughout the country, and devaſtating wherever they come. The *chriſtian* farmers ſeizing this opportunity, immediately aſſemble, penetrate the country of the people they call their enemies, and then maſſacre *entire hoordes* without any diſtinction of ſex or infancy. Their object being chiefly to get poſſeſſion *of the cattle*, they drive whole herds before them, and then wait until they hear of more being within their reach, when a ſimilar depredation is committed. To illucidate this matter ſtill further, I ſhall here relate an anecdote which I learnt in the courſe of our proceeding towards the chriſtian ſettlements.

One of our guides ſuddenly called out to the party to halt. On my deſiring to know his reaſon, he ſaid, "be ſo good as to look attentively on the ſpot where you now ſtand; it is an unfortunate place, but worthy your conſideration."——Not obſerving any thing

that particularly arrested my notice, I requested he would explain himself.—"On this spot," continued the *savage*, "two of my countrymen a few years since were employed in attending their cattle. At that time we enjoyed a profound peace with the colonists, and harboured no suspicion of their intending to injure us. In a moment, however, our two men were fired upon from yonder thicket. One fell dead on the spot, the other being only wounded, was so fortunate as to make his escape. The settlers then took possession of our cattle, and drove them home to their farms. Intelligence of this *murder* and *robbery* was soon conveyed throughout the hoordes, and occasioned the last war between the *Colonists* and the *Caffrees*."

The poor fellow told this melancholy story with so much feeling and simplicity, that I could entertain no doubt of his veracity. I then asked him if *all* the *colonists* were of this abominable disposition? He answered, "*I hope not*;" and indeed, on this occasion, I conceive it would be unjust in me to publish any thing that might be mistaken for a *general censure* on the whole of the *settlers*. There are exceptions, and I think it necessary this should be understood, as I have known many of them who hold the general conduct of their *marauding neighbours* in the utmost abhorrence, and wish for nothing more sincerely than their expulsion from the colonies.

Our two guides likewise explained the

reaſons why the *Caffrees* detained us ſo long. They told us, that when they conſulted together reſpecting our departure, it was reſolved not to ſuffer us to proceed until they got every thing that could be procured from the wreck. They conceived we would inform the coloniſts of our misfortune; and that notwithſtanding they had no right to paſs the *Fiſh-River*, ſtill they knew the ſettlers would come in ſearch of plunder, and which really happened, as I have obſerved in my introduction to this Narrative.

I then aſked one of the guides, if his countrymen had, during our ſtay under the ſand-hills, ever meditated our deſtruction. The *good ſavage* ſeemed offended at this queſtion; he ſhook his head, and emphatically declared, they never once entertained ſuch an inhuman thought. "No, no, no," he ſaid, "that would be a very bad thing. —We kill nobody but in war.—No, no, no, indeed no!" his anſwer was thus interpreted to me, and diſmiſſing the horrid appellation of *ſavage* at once from my recollection, I embraced him as my *deliverer* and my *friend*.

NARRATIVE CONTINUED.

We did not take our departure on the morning of the 23d until the ſun was well up. Our guides were intelligent, and gave us to underſtand that we muſt on no account

travel early, as the wild beaſts conſtantly roſe with the ſun, and then ranged the deſerts in queſt of their prey. As we were all unarmed, a ſingle *lion*, *leopard* or *panther*, could have deſtroyed the moſt of us. It became, therefore, highly neceſſary we ſhould not ſtir until theſe animals had ſatisfied their hunger, and were retired for the day.

Notwithſtanding this cautious and neceſſary advice, and which was given with a laudable earneſtneſs for our preſervation, ſtill my people were ſo deſirous of getting on, that they grew uneaſy; but the guides could not be induced to quit the fires until about nine o'clock; at which time we all proceeded, and in good ſpirits.

Not more than three or four of our party were at this moment in poſſeſſion of ſhoes. We had many hundred miles to travel over unknown countries, to aſcend mountains of ſtupendous elevation, penetrate woods, traverſe deſerts, ford rivers; and yet we were to combat all theſe difficulties *bare footed*, not having ſaved above four pair of ſhoes, and even theſe but in ſad condition.

As my feet were naked, like moſt of my peoples, one of them offered me an old pair of boots which he then wore; but I refuſed them. My habiliments were a ſhort jacket, a table-cloth, which I found on the ſhore, wrapt round my loins; a ſhawl over it; four ſhirts which I wore at the ſame time; a pair of trowſers and a hat.

We bore to the weſtward, on our ſetting out, for the purpoſe of obtaining freſh water in the courſe of our journey. Our guides obſerved, that near the coaſt the water was generally brackiſh; we therefore ſtruck into the interior, and were not entirely diſappointed in our expectations.

The country through which we travelled, was beautifully variegated with hills, dales, extenſive plains finely watered, but leſs wooded than the former. The graſs appeared of an extraordinary height; but in the courſe we purſued, not a human foot-ſtep could be traced; no cattle, no ſign of cultivation could be obſerved. We were not interrupted by any beaſt of prey, although we conſtantly perceived their dung. At length, after travelling about thirty-five miles, we bagan to feel the want of water.

After ſearching for this indiſpenſable aliment with the utmoſt anxiety and attention, we were ſo fortunate as to diſcover, before ſun-ſet, a brook that run near the corner of a wood; and here we determined to reſt for the night. We began, therefore, to prepare a ſufficient quantity of fuel. The wood was chiefly compoſed of trees that partook in ſome degree of the nature of our thorn: we cut ſeveral and arranged our fires. One of the Caffrees ſtruck a light, and the whole, in a few minutes, was in a blaze. The tinder which he provided was of a particular deſcription; it conſiſted of a pithy ſubſtance extracted from a reed, and

ſo tenacious of fire, that a ſingle ſpark from the ſteel caught it in a moment. The weather being cold, we reſolved to ſleep cloſe to one another; but the guides told us, the place we had fixed upon to reſt during the night, was known to be infeſted with *leopards*; and that, if they ſcented the party, nothing could prevent them from deſtroying ſome of us. This intelligence induced us to enlarge our fires, and we began to conſult upon other meaſures that were likely to contribute alſo to our preſervation. But ſuch is the powerful influence of ſleep over the harraſſed ſoul, that our converſation had ſcarcely commenced on this important ſubject, when we were all relieved from any ſenſe of danger, by gently falling into the arms of *Morpheus*, and where we remained in perfect ſecurity until the morning.

No ſooner had the ſun peeped above the horizon, than we were all rouſed by the tremendous roaring of LIONS. Never were men in a ſituation more truly alarming. Had they diſcovered us during the night, we muſt have been torn to pieces when ſleeping, as not an individual could attend the watch, or keep awake even for an hour. —We therefore congratulated one another on finding we had all eſcaped, and ſet out about ſeven in the morning in company with our guides.

We ſoon arrived at the bank of a ſmall river, which being perfectly dry, we croſſed

without difficulty. Shortly after we came to another which we likewiſe paſſed in a few minutes. We reached at length ſome highlands, from the tops of which we diſcovered ſeveral beautiful vales clothed with long dry graſs, ſmall cluſters of trees, and in other places, foreſts of conſiderable extent, ſkirting mountains of different elevations.

In the courſe of the day, we were in great diſtreſs for want of water, and loſt much time in the purſuit of it. Indeed we almoſt deſpaired of finding any, as the earth appeared ſo dry as to exhauſt all the brooks we had viſited. Luckily however, about ſun-ſet, we diſcovered a ſmall rivulet that run near the ſkirt of a foreſt; and, although the water was not good, yet ſtill it relieved us from a dreadful ſituation.

We had this day travelled about thirty miles, and therefore determined to remain where we were during the night. All hands, therefore, went immediately to work for the purpoſe of getting fuel.—We had ſeen no wild animals in the courſe of the day, but frequently obſerved the dung of the elephant and the rhinoceros.

As our ſituation for this night was as dangerous and deplorable as on the preceding one, we determined to enlarge our fires, as the only means of ſafety we had left. This was accordingly done, and we had the pleaſure to find, when the day appeared, that not an individual was miſſing of the whole party.

CHAPTER VI.

The captain and his party ſtopt by a BAD TRIBE *of* CAFFREES.—*An enraged* CAFFREE *deſcribed.—They arrive on the ſummit of a mountain, which affords a proſpect tranſcendently beautiful.—Fortify themſelves againſt the attack of wild animals during the night.—Thirty-ſix of the crew, unable to proceed, are left behind.—The captain, and twenty-four of his people, go on—Find a Chriſtian habitation deſerted—Arrive next day at* JAN DU PLIESIES, *a Dutch Settler.—Their reception, together with the character and family of the coloniſt deſcribed.—Waggon and guards ſent for the relief of ſuch of the crew as remained in the deſerts.*

WE ſet out this morning, ſhortly after ſun-riſing; and, as we were to travel through a wood of conſiderable extent, our guides told us to be upon our guard, as we ſhould certainly be interrupted by wild animals, as they reſorted to this place in prodigious numbers. We determined, notwithſtanding, to brave all dangers, and accordingly proceeded. We indeed eſcaped the *lions*, the *panthers*, the *rhinoceros*, the *elephant*, &c. but unfortunately, about noon came up with a hoorde of *Caffrees*, that were diſtinguiſhed, by their own countrymen, as a *bad tribe*. We ſpoke at firſt to ſome *Caffree women*, who behaved kindly, and gave us one or two *baſkets* of milk. Theſe are made of twigs, wove ſo cloſely together, as to hold water.

We had proceeded but a ſhort way, after receiving this inſtance of female liberality, when we were ſtopt by twelve *Caffree men*, armed with ſpears, and clothed in leopard ſkins. Our guides, alarmed at the appearance of theſe ſavages, flew to the banks of the *great Fiſh-River*, which at that time was not more than two hundred yards from the place where we ſtood. We repeatedly called to them to return; but in vain; they immediately croſſed the bed of the river, which was dry, and, having reached the oppoſite ſhore, aſcended an adjoining mountain with the utmoſt precipitation.

The ſavages brandiſhed their ſpears, and appeared by their geſtures to menace the deſtruction of us all. We could not underſtand what they ſaid; but we ſuppoſed they demanded from us whatever articles we poſſeſſed; and as theſe principally conſiſted of the little ſtock of proviſions we had left, and our clothes, we determined not to part with either.

One of my people had a knife, which was ſlung over his ſhoulder. A Caffree, perceiving it, made a ſnatch at the handle; but the owner reſiſting, he loſt his hold. This ſo enraged the ſavage, that he lifted up his *aſſagay* with an apparent intention of diſpatching the object of his reſentment.

At the moment he ſtood in this attitude, a more finiſhed picture of horror, or what we underſtand of the *infernals*, was perhaps never ſeen before. The ſavage wore a leop-

ard's ſkin ; his black countenance bedaubed with red ochre ; his eyes, inflamed with rage, appeared as if ſtarting from their ſockets ; his mouth expanded, and his teeth *gnaſhing* and *grinning* with all the fury of an exaſperated demon. At this inſtant, the *tout-en-ſemble* of the figure would have been a ſubject highly deſerving the pencil of a *Raphael.*

The ſavage was diverted from his purpoſe, and dropt the aſſaygay. We inſtantly proceeded to the river, and croſſed it in purſuit of our guides. They were ſtanding on the ſummit of the mountain when we came up, and expreſſed the utmoſt ſatisfaction at our eſcape. They gave us a terrible deſcription of the people we had juſt left, and aſſured us, if the remainder of their hoorde had not been hunting at the time we got to the *Fiſh-River*, not a man of us would have ſurvived.—Our guides alſo told us, they were the moſt abominable hoorde throughout the whole of Caffraria.

Our converſation laſted but a few minutes, when we reſolved to deſcend the mountain, and purſue our journey. We had ſcarcely put ourſelves in motion, when a ſcene of the moſt extenſive and luxuriant beauties burſt in a moment on our view. The danger we had juſt eſcaped, engaged our attention ſo entirely, when we gained the ſummit, that we did not immediately perceive the world of beauties that now lay ſpread before us. All ſtood for ſome time

in a ſtate of rapture and amazement. The country was moſtly a level, yet pleaſingly diverſified with gentle elevations, on the tops of which we could perceive clumps of the *mimoſa tree*, and the ſides clothed with ſhrubs of various denominations. A thouſand rivulets ſeemed to meander through this *ſecond Eden*; frequently ſkirting or appearing to encircle a plantation of wood; then ſuddenly taking a different direction, glided through a plain of conſiderable extent, until it came to a gentle declivity; here it formed a natural caſcade, and then, following its courſe, proceeded in an endleſs variety throughout the whole of the country.

As we ſtood gazing on this ſylvan ſcene, we perceived innumerable herds of animals, particularly of the ſpecies of the gazelle, ſcouring over the plains; ſome darting through the woods, others feeding or drinking at the rivulets. As far as the eye travelled in purſuit of new beauties, it was moſt amply gratified, until at lenght the whole gradually faded on the view, and became loſt in the horizon.

We were ſo wrapt in extacy at this landſcape, that we forgot our danger, and remained too long upon the mountain. We at length deſcended and proceeded on our journey.

Before the day cloſed, we fixed on a place where we were to remain until the morning. It was near a wood, moſtly compoſed of

that kind of thorn which I have mentioned before. Several of theſe we immediately cut, not only for the purpoſe of fuel, but to form a barricade or defence againſt the wild animals during the night.

After completing our fortification, lighting our fires, and *ſupping* in the beſt manner poſſible, we lay down to reſt; but our ſleep was conſtantly diſturbed during the night, by a herd of *elephants*, bruſhing through the wood, paſſing and returning almoſt every moment. Had not our fence been erected the preceding evening, we ſhould, in all probability, have been trampled to death by theſe monſtrous animals. We had the good fortune, however, to eſcape; and, about ſeven the next morning, we proceeded on our journey, in company with our guides.

We likewiſe travelled this day through a delightful country. The land, in ſome places, ſeemed to be compoſed of a red and yellow clay, and the valleys appeared covered with a very thick and long graſs, but not a ſign of *agriculture* was to be obſerved. In the courſe of the day, we perceived a few deſerted huts, one of which we entered. We paid ſeverely for our curioſity, as thoſe who ventured in, were in a moment covered entirely with fleas.

We ſometimes found water; but it was brackiſh, although we were at leaſt 50 miles from the ſea. We kept at this diſtance during the moſt of our journey.

We brought up for the night, after tra-

velling about 35 miles, at the ſkirt of a ſmall foreſt, and provided fuel, with a temporary defence, as before. Our proviſion being nearly exhauſted, we were obliged to eat ſparingly, although moſt of us were ravenouſly hungry. Before we went to ſleep, I was alarmed to find that many of the party complained moſt violently of *ſore feet*. This misfortune, I was afraid, would occaſion our ſeparation, and of courſe the death of ſeveral.

About ſeven in the morning we again ſet out; but many of my people dropt a-ſtern in the courſe of the day, being almoſt worn out with fatigue. In this ſituation I thought it incumbent, on ſuch of the party as could travel, to get forward, and provide a place where wood and water could be had. I was of this company; and that all thoſe who remained behind might find their way, I ordered the Gaffree guides to ſet fire to the long graſs, which ſerved, during the night, as a point of direction. I was in expectation of their coming up with us before the morning; but we were ſadly diſappointed. We remained ſtationary until the ſun appeared, and then went on.

Not one of the people we had left behind appeared this morning; but the guides gave us to underſtand we would reach a Chriſtian ſettlement in the courſe of the day, where aſſiſtance would certainly be had. This intelligence gave us new ſpirits; and we travelled with an unuſual alertneſs, un-

til we came to a farm houſe. Here we expected relief; but none, alas! was to be found: the whole place had been deſerted for ſome time; we were obliged, therefore, to ſleep again in the air, and leave our abſent and miſerable companions to all the horrors of the deſert.

This was not a night of ſleep, but lamentation. We ſat round our fire, and ſpoke of nothing but our abſent meſs-mates and their unfortunate ſituation. They were left defenceleſs, without food, hardly able to ſtand erect, and in a country where the ferocious animals were moſt numerous. They were likewiſe every hour in danger of an attack from the *Boſhis-men*, who ſwarm in theſe parts, and deſtroy the unhappy objects of their vengeance by arrows that are poiſoned. The ſenſibility of my people on this melancholy occaſion, diſplayed the genuine character of a ſailor. Men who could brave all the dangers of the tempeſt, and face death without a trembling nerve, even in the cannon's mouth, could not, however, ſpeak of their diſtreſſed and abſent brethren without a tear. Their own misfortunes were forgotten; and their only conſideration, during the night, was their unhappy meſs-mates, whom they never expected to behold again.

We remained here for more than an hour after the riſing of the ſun. It was poſſible, we might ſee a few of our people ſtraggling towards the ſpot where we then were, and

this chance detained us ; but not an individual was to be obſerved. Out of *ſixty* that compoſed the party, when we left our *ſavage* friends on the beach, *thirty-ſix* were ſo maimed and worn down by fatigue, as to be unable to travel : theſe remained in the deſerts, if not already deſtroyed, and had no hope of preſervation, but from our exertions.

The guides informed us, we were certainly near a Chriſtian ſettlement that was inhabited : the laſt we ſaw, had been deſtroyed by the *Caffrees* during the war with the *Coloniſts ;* I therefore determined to proceed, where relief could be obtained, with every poſſible diſpatch. My people followed me with redoubled energy ; the ſalvation of their companions was the incentive, and that conſideration baniſhed every idea of danger or fatigue.

We travelled without a ſingle halt for about three hours, when one of the guides, who was advanced, roared out, in a tranſport of joy, " I ſee a *Hottentot*, attending a flock of ſheep." It was the voice of a *ſeraph* proceeding from a *Caffree*. We all ran to the place where he ſtood, and at a conſiderable diſtance, obſerved a man attending a flock of at leaſt *four thouſand*. We moved in a body towards the ſhepherd, who ſeemed at firſt to be alarmed ; but perceiving we were moſtly *whites*, and unarmed, he ſtopt until we came up. I requeſted of him to direct us the neareſt way to the firſt ſettle-

ment, which he did, and at the same time informed us, the proprietor was a *good man*; the distance, he said, was about *three hours*. The pleasure diffused throughout the party, on receiving this information, it is impossible to describe. I embraced this opportunity, and went on; a general joy succeeded, and who should be foremost, the principal consideration.

At length—*extatic reflection!*—we came within sight of a *Christian farm*. "Come on, my lads," said I, "we are safely moor'd at last; and our people in the deserts, will be soon relieved." Some tottered as they stood, overcome by joy, and could not move; others appeared as in a trance, until at length about ten followed me, and we entered the house of

JAN DU PLIESIES.

Fortunately, this was a settler of the best order about sixty years old, born in Holland, but had resided in Africa for many years; humane, generous, and possessing a heart that appeared to be the constant mansion of a virtuous sympathy. His cottage was formed of clay, thatched with a kind of reed, and furnished with a few stools, a table, and some kitchen utensils. His family consisted of five or six sons, their wives and children, together with a daughter, making together about twenty people. His stock, however, was considerable, not less

than *twelve thouſand ſheep*, and *one thouſand oxen*.

After the alarm, into which we threw this good man on our firſt appearance, had ſubſided, I told the ſtory of our melancholy diſaſter, and implored his aſſiſtance for the relief of my unhappy people who were left behind. He could not liſten to the relation, without diſcovering by his countenance the tenderneſs of his nature. His face, which was naturally *pallid*, became, at certain intervals, of a *crimſon hue*: theſe emotions appeared to me as the effervescence of ſenſibility, and to exhibit, in glowing colours, the complexion of virtue.

As no time, he ſaid, ſhould be loſt in preparing for the relief of my unfortunate people, he immediately directed two of his ſons, to harneſs *eight oxen* to a waggon. His orders were obeyed with a cheerfulneſs that evinced an hereditary goodneſs, and that it had deſcended, unimpared from the ſire to his children. They were directed to travel all night; and our guides deſcribed the ſpot where we left them, ſo minutely, as to avoid all poſſibility of a miſtake. The waggon was ſoon out of ſight, and we all ſat down to partake of a ſheep, which our liberal hoſt had ordered to be killed for our entertainment.

CHAPTER VII.

Remarkable ſtory of a RHINOCEROS; *related by the coloniſt —The farmers generally diſcontented with the Dutch government at the Cape—Neighbouring coloniſts arrive at* DU PLIESIES—*Their conduct deſcribed—Waggon returns with* twenty-three *of the crew—Thirteen ſtrayed—Reward and diſmiſs the Caffree guides—Recommendatory letter given by the Farmer to the Captain in the Dutch language—Their departure from* DU PLIESIES—*Arrive at another Chriſtian ſettlement—Their reception and departure—Proceed on the journey—*BOSHIS-MEN *deſcribed—The party travelling through a valley, in great danger from the* BOSHIS-MEN—*They get through without injury, and enter a champaign country.*

WHEN our meal was over, the worthy coloniſt began to interrogate us reſpecting our journey through *Caffraria*. He could not poſſibly conceive, he ſaid, how the *Tambouchis* could be induced to ſuffer our departure. They were ſuch a *horrid race*, that nothing was ſo gratifying to their nature as the ſhedding of human blood. The *Boſhis-men*, he alſo obſerved, were ſo numerous, and ſo perpetually on the look out, that he was amazed at our travelling with any degree of ſecurity; but when he conſidered that we came through a part of *Caffraria*, ſo infeſted with carnivorous animals, that people could never travel ſafely but in parties, and well armed, he declared our being then in his houſe appeared to him a kind of *miracle*.

I took this opportunity of giving our worthy hoſt a proper idea of the *Tambouchis*. His mind had been poiſoned by ſome of his *depredating* neighbours, and never going on ſuch parties himſelf, had entertained theſe prejudices without having any opportunity of knowing the contrary. He appeared much pleaſed at the conduct of the *Tambouchis* during our abode in their country, and declared this circumſtance alone would relieve him from many hours of uneaſineſs.

His ſequeſtered manſion was nearly ſurrounded by trees, on which were hung to dry, the ſkins of *lions*, *tygers*, *panthers*, and other deſtructive animals, killed in the vicinity of his own habitation. I obſerved alſo the carcaſes of two enormous creatures, lying near the door, which had the appearance of being recently deſtroyed. He told me they were two *rhinoceroſes* that his ſons had killed but the day before on their own land. This gave riſe to a narrative reſpecting theſe animals, which the good man related with great circumſpection, and which appeared to me ſo very extraordinary, that I determined to record it for the ſatisfaction of the curious.

"Theſe creatures, ſaid the farmer, are more ſavage, and infinitely more to be dreaded, than any other animal of the deſerts. Even the *lion*, when he perceives a *rhinoceros*, will fly from him on the inſtant. I had a proof of this, ſaid he, about two years ago. As I was traverſing my lands in

the morning, I perceived a *lion* enter a thicket, about the diſtance of half a mile from the place where I ſtood. In a few minutes after I obſerved a *ſecond*, then a *third*, and a *fourth* came; they ſeemed to follow one another at their leiſure, and in leſs than an hour, I *counted nine* that entered the ſame wood. Never having ſeen ſo many of the ſame ſpecies together, I was deſirous to know the event of their meeting, and I concealed myſelf for the purpoſe. After waiting for rather more than an hour in my lurking place, without either ſeeing any of them, or hearing any noiſe from the quarter where they lay, I began to deſpair of having my curioſity in the leaſt gratified. At length, I perceived a *rhinoceros* of uncommon magnitude approach the wood. He ſtood motionleſs for about five minutes, when he arrived at a ſmall diſtance from the thicket, then toſſed up his noſe, and at laſt ſcented the animals that lay concealed. In an inſtant I ſaw him dart into the wood, and in the ſpace of about five minutes afterwards I obſerved *all* the *lions* ſcamper away in different directions, and apparently in the greateſt conſternation. The *rhinoceros* beat about the wood in purſuit of his enemies for a conſiderable time; but not finding any, he broke cover at laſt and appeared on the plain. He then looked around him, and, enraged at his diſappointment, began tearing up the earth, and diſcovered every ſign of madneſs and deſperation. I remain-

ed quietly in my retreat until the animal diſappeared, and then returned to my houſe."

This anecdote I thought worthy of being publiſhed; but I now return to my narrative.

We ſlept this night on ſacks, which our hoſt had arranged for our accommodation. During the time we were at breakfaſt on the ſucceeding morning, our benefactor entertained us with ſome very intereſting obſervations reſpecting the country where he reſided. He particularly ſtated the hardſhips, which the coloniſts endured from the reſtrictive orders and perſecuting conduct of the government at the Cape. "I have lead ore, ſaid he, on my own farm, ſo near the ſurface that we can ſcrape it up with our hands, and yet we dare not touch it—If we were known to melt and uſe a ſingle pound of it, we ſhould be all *tranſported, for life, to Batavia.*" It was from this honeſt man I obtained the above information, and which I have before mentioned in my introduction to this narrative. He made no ſcruple in declaring that if any liberal and trading nation would form a ſettlement on the *eaſtern* or *weſtern* coaſt, he would in conjunction with his neighbours, provide them with proviſion to the extent of his ability, and trade with them, regardleſs of any order to the contrary he might receive from the Cape—Indeed ſuch are the ſentiments of all the central and advanced coloniſts throughout the ſouthern parts of Africa.

Before we diſpoſed of the ſheep we had for breakfaſt, our benefactor had diſpatched meſſengers to his neighbouring friends, deſiring their aſſiſtance to get us on towards the Cape. Several of them came, and behaved with the greateſt tenderneſs and liberality. They went ſo far as to ſay, that ſuch of the crew as were deſirous of remaining in the country until they had perfectly recovered, ſhould be accommodated at their houſes; and as they travelled once in every year to the Cape, they would take the firſt opportunity of conveying them thither. I thanked them for their kindneſs, but declined accepting their propoſal, as our intention was to make the Cape with every poſſible expedition.

This converſation was interrupted by a *Hottentot* ſervant who ran into the houſe, and declared the "*waggon was in ſight.*" All flew to meet it, and I had the heart-felt conſolation of perceiving *twenty-three* of my unfortunate people, chiefly Laſcars, laying down in the machine. On their arrival at our habitation, the two ſons of *Du Pleſſis*, informed us, they found them near a wood perfectly reſigned to their fate, having given up all hopes of relief. The preceding day, *thirteen* of their companions had ſeparated from them; but where they had ſtrayed to, not one of them could even gueſs at. Theſe poor fellows I never ſaw again; but I had the pleaſure to hear, ſince my return to Europe, that after enduring for a long time

the moſt unexampled miſeries, they *all* arrived in ſafety at the Cape.

We were now *forty-ſeven* in number, and as we were to proceed in waggons, I had the ſatisfaction to know that ſuch as were afflicted with ſore feet, or weak through hunger and fatigue, would not again be ſeparated from their companions.

My next conſideration was to reward our faithful guides.—How to do this, made me for ſome time extremely uneaſy. At length, a very unexpected information relieved me from this embarraſſment. One of my people gave me to underſtand, that a ſailor, who was of the party, had poſſeſſed himſelf of a dozen of my *table-ſpoons*, and likewiſe ſeveral *tea-ſpoons* before he quitted the wreck, all of which he had then about him, I immediately went up to the man and demanded my property; he returned them without a moment's heſitation, giving me to underſtand, at the ſame time, that he intended reſtoring them to me when we arrived at the Cape. Four or five of the largeſt ſpoons I gave the farmer, who in return delivered to me *two oxen* of an extraordinary ſize, and a like number of *ſheep*. Theſe I requeſted our two guides to accept of as a reward for their labour and fidelity. They thanked me heartily, and ſet out on their return to the *fertile* and *delightful* plains of *Caffraria*.

Our benevolent hoſt now provided us with a waggon and two ſets of oxen, each

ſet containing *eight*. They were occaſionally to relieve each other on the way, and two or three *Hottentot* ſervants were appointed as drivers, and to take charge of the relaying cattle. One of the farmer's ſons, completely armed, was likewiſe directed to attend us, and the waggon was ſtored with proviſion and water ſufficient to ſupply us until we arrived at the next ſettlement.

Before we took leave of this excellent man, I begged of him to give me a recommendatory letter which I might ſhew to the farmers as we proceeded, and which, I entertained no doubt, would ſecure to us a favourable reception. He immediately acquieſced, and gave me the following epiſtle in his own language.

"Goode Vriende—*Weeſt ſoo goet helpt Deſe Alenſchen Doont Coapwaanſt het ſynn Amerecanders Syluy heeſt haar ſchep Verlooren An de oven ſeyvan De Rivier genoemt De Biga De Caffers heeſt De menſe by meyn Ge braeght,*

"*UE vnient,*

"*Jan Dus. Pliesies,*

"*Doude.*"

TRANSLATION.

"Good Friends,

"Be ſo good as to help theſe people forward towards the Cape. They are Americans who have loſt their ſhip beyond the *river Biga*: the *Caffrees* have brought theſe people to me,

"Your friend,

"John Du Pliesies,

"*the elder.*"

We took our departure from the hoſpitable manſion of the benevolent *Du Plieſies*, on the morning of the ſecond of July. We travelled through a country poſſeſſing many of thoſe variegated beauties I have before attempted to delineate. Our guard was perpetually on the watch, leſt the *Boſhis-men* or the wild animals might dart upon us unperceived. About eight in the evening, however, we reached the ſecond farm in perfect ſecurity. Our journey was about *thirty-five miles* this day, and all my people in good ſpirits.

The owner, whoſe name was CORNELIUS ENGLEBROCKS, we found alſo a beneficent character. His cottage was poor indeed; but all that he could afford he gave us with cheerfulneſs. I produced his neighbour's letter, which he read with great attention, and then ſaid, "my friend is a good man, and I always valued him; but you wanted no other recommendation to my poor ſervices, *than your misfortunes.*"

We remained here during the night, after partaking of a frugal repaſt which our hoſt had provided, and which was given with many innocent apologies for its ſcantineſs.

Before our departure on the enſuing morning, the farmer generouſly preſented me with *nine ſheep*. I begged of him not to inſiſt on my taking ſo many, as we could be ſupplied occaſionally on our journey. "You cannot be ſure of that, replied our worthy hoſt. Drive theſe ſheep before you,

and if you are not well treated as you proceed, this little ſtock will be your ſupport."

The poor man lamented he could not let us have a morſel of bread.——We live, ſaid he, the year round chiefly on mutton and game; but ſeldom enjoy the luxury *of a loaf*. He inſiſted, however, on my taking the ſheep, which I accepted with many thanks, and we then departed on our journey.

During the four or five ſucceeding days, we travelled on from houſe to houſe, generally at fifteen or ſixteen *hours* diſtance from each other, and were received at all of them with a diſintereſted hoſpitality. I relate theſe occurrences with a ſcrupulous attention to fidelity, becauſe the coloniſts, without diſtinction, have been repreſented as a *ferocious banditti*, ſcarcely to be kept within the pale of authority. I believe *moſt* of theſe people at certain times commit thoſe depredations I have already deſcribed, and therefore deſerve exemplary puniſhment; but it was my good fortune to meet with a deſerving claſs, and I conſider it as an indiſpenſable duty to preſerve their characters from the *general* opprobrium.

During ſeveral days travel we could get but little bread, and not much water. The countries through which we paſſed, were alternately hill and dale, and often afforded the moſt romantic proſpects. We frequently perceived vaſt quantities of wolves, and often ſuch droves of that ſpecies of deer which the farmers call *ſpring-buck*, that we

ſuppoſed one flock alone could not contain leſs than from *twelve* to *fourteen thouſand*. Indeed many of the ſettlers informed me, they have ſeen double that number at one time, and have frequently killed *three* at a ſingle ſhot. We likewiſe ſaw vaſt quantities of *guinea-fowl*, which, after a ſhower of rain, are eaſily caught by the farmers' dogs.

The *zebra* or *wild aſs* is common in theſe advanced colonies, and we ſaw many of them—*Oſtriches* were likewiſe numerous. I have ſeen four of them together, and without being much alarmed at the appearance of our caravan. We had ſuch plenty of veniſon at the houſes where we ſtopt, that our ſtock of *nine ſheep*, furniſhed by honeſt Englebrocks, was diminiſhed but *three* in the courſe of ſix days.

The farmers were accuſtomed to the depredations of wild animals, and were therefore acquainted with their haunts. They frequently pointed to certain ſpots where the *buffaloes* frequented, and other places where the *lions*, *tigers*, *&c.* *&c.* were known to reſide. But theſe creatures, however tremendous to an European, are not ſo alarming to a *Hottentot* as the *Boſhis-men*. I heard ſo much of theſe ſavage people, that I particularly wiſhed to ſee a man of the ſame tribe. A lucky circumſtance occurred that gratified my curioſity. A coloniſt, at whoſe houſe we ſojourned for the night, had, many years before, engaged a party of *Boſhismen*, and killed ſeveral; but was ſo fortu-

nate as to preſerve an infant, whoſe mother it was ſuppoſed had been ſlain during the *hunt*. He was taken home to the farmer's and reared as one of the family. When I ſaw him, he was about *twenty-five years old*; but not more than *four feet two inches* in ſtature. His noſe was not a prominent feature, but merely a piece of ſkin that lay flat over the naſal aperture; and although his make was athletic, yet no gazelle could be more alert or agile in its motions. When I enquired reſpecting the ſuppoſed origin of theſe people, I was univerſally anſwered, "*they are a diſtinct race*," and indeed their look and figure, when taken together, are ſufficient demonſtrations of the fact.

The *Boſhis-men*, when they are ſufficiently ſtrong in number, attack and kill the *Hottentots* and *Caffrees* wherever they find them; and the *coloniſts* hunt the *Boſhis-men* as they do the *lion* and the *tiger*.—A farmer never thinks of giving quarter to theſe people; but ſlay them the very inſtant they are in their power.

The bow of the *Boſhis-men* is about *two feet* and a *half* in length, and their arrows of which they generally carry a competent ſtock, about *two feet two inches* from one extremity to the other. They are made of a certain reed, pointed with a bone which is poiſoned, and conſtructed ſo artfully as to remain in the wound after it penetrates. If it draws blood, the opinion is, that no cataplaſm, however ſkilfully compounded, nor

medicine yet discovered, can save the wounded object from destruction.

As we proceeded on our journey to a farm-house, we passed one day through a dismal valley of about three miles in length. Our conductors informed us, this place was called *Boshis-men's path*; and they held their muskets presented the whole of the way, as if they were going to fire at some particular object. The road was narrow, and the hills on each side of considerable elevation. A thick brush wood covered the sides of the hills, except where the rocks appeared; and in the secluded cavities, formed by these masses, lay concealed *whole hoordes* of these extraordinary people. Our guides were constantly desiring us as we proceeded thro' this valley, to be upon our guard, as they knew the *Boshis-men* were there, and *looking at us*, although we could not *perceive them*. "They will fill you full of arrows in a moment," said the guides, "if you do not take especial care of yourselves." This caution, I soon found, was essentially necessary, as we observed their tracts so fresh upon the ground that a whole swarm of them must have passed but a few minutes before our arrival.

The formidable appearance we made, I believe prevented them from attacking us. We got through this valley, however, in safety, and then entered upon a champaign country. The farmers told us, they frequently assemble to the number of forty or

ſifty, and go in queſt of the *Boſhis-men*, whom they deſtroy without mercy if they come up with them; but they often eſcape, as they run with unparelleled ſwiftneſs, and climb the rocks with the moſt aſtoniſhing agility. Theſe people rear nothing for their ſubſiſtence, but live by plundering the country, and on the fruit of a ſmall tree, which is called *Boſhis-man's bread*. The body and branches of this tree, when roaſted, eat ſomething like a *plantain*.

CHAPTER VIII.

Paſs in ſafety through the BOSHIS-MAN'S PATH.—*Beautiful vale of* LONG CLUFF *deſcribed.—Humourous converſation of the crew.—Reach the ſettlement of a blind coloniſt; their reception and entertainment deſcribed.—The crew ſeparate.—One of them marry in the country.—Perceive vaſt foreſts of the* ALOE-TREE.—*Captain reaches* ZWELLINGDAM, *and proceeds to the* LANDORSE-HOUSE.—*His reception.—Arrive at the beautiful ſettlement of* STALLENBUSH.—*The place deſcribed.—Arrives at the Cape.*

THE coloniſts I found as we proceeded, raiſed ſome tobacco; but it was of a bad quality, owing, perhaps to their not being ſufficiently acquainted with the manner of rearing it. They all expreſſed a wiſh to have ſeed from America, and to have people from that continent eſtabliſhed in their neighbourhood. An American well acquainted with the growth and manufacture of this plant, muſt, in a few years, if ſettled in theſe parts, become not only independent but opulent.

Having paſſed, on the ſeventh, the *Boſhisman's path* in perfect ſecurity, we began to conſider ourſelves releaſed from their attacks, and therefore went on with unuſual cheerfulneſs. We proceeded through a delightful country, abounding in gazelles, and plentifully ſtocked with *porcupines*. We found their quills in vaſt quantities on the ground, and a great number of their holes. I had the curioſity to examine ſeveral of

them, and judging from the quantity of earth that lay at the entrance of their habitations, I conceived they muſt have penetrated to a conſiderable depth. We ſtopt this day at a farmer's, and exchanged our remaining ſheep for an equal number of freſh ones. Thoſe we poſſeſſed, were drove ſo far, that moſt of them became feeble and emaciated; but the coloniſt was a liberal man, and parted freely with his property, though he loſt by the exchange.

From the 8th to the 16th of June, our journey was not interrupted by any diſagreeable occurrence. The countries thro' which we paſſed, diſplayed every mile we travelled a change of new beauties. The mountains were in many places of ſtupendous height, and the valleys, decorated with wood, were aſtoniſhingly fertile in vegetable productions. One of the moſt extenſive of theſe valleys, took us no leſs than *three days and a half* in paſſing. It is called by the ſettlers *Long Cluff*, and affords, perhaps, as many romantic ſcenes as can be found in any ſpot of the ſame extent upon the face of the earth.

The hills for ſeventy or eighty miles run parallel to each other. The lands between are wonderfully rich, and produce vaſt quantities of a plant ſimilar in its ſmell and taſte to our *thyme*. On this fragrant herb are fed immenſe quantities of ſheep and cattle; they devour it with great eagerneſs: and it gives the mutton a flavour ſo like our veni-

ſon that an epicure might be deceived in the taſte. The valleys are generally level from *eight* to *four* miles in breadth, and in ſeveral places interſected with rivulets, on the borders of which we frequently perceived whole groves of the *aloe-tree*.

As we travelled through this vale, I was occaſionally diverted by the obſervations and good-natured contentions of my people, who were thus amuſing themſelves as they went on, regardleſs of the paſt, and but little attentive to the future.

On or about the fourteenth, we reached the ſettlement of an old and blind man. He had a large family, and appeared to poſſeſs a comfortable independence. When he heard our ſtory, the good farmer *burſt into tears*, and ordered a glaſs of brandy to be given to each of the crew. After this unuſual and cheering repaſt, he directed ſome mutton to be delivered to my people, and gave them a pot to dreſs it in. He then requeſted I would meſs with the family, which I did, and when ſupper was ended, this worthy creature informed me, he was ſo pleaſed with our eſcaping the dangers of the ſea and the *Caffrees*, that he would celebrate our meeting with a *ſong*. He immediately began and ſung with the voice of a *ſtentor*. A general plaudit ſucceeded; and then our honeſt benefactor, addreſſing himſelf to me, ſaid, "Now, Captain, I have a favour to aſk of you. Pray deſire all your people to *ſing*." It was impoſſible to avoid laughing

at this whimſical requeſt; but I thought good humour at ſuch a moment ſhould not be interrupted. I therefore deſired an American ſailor who ſat near me to ſing one of his beſt ſongs. He no ſooner began than *all* the *Laſcars* tuned their pipes; this ſet a going the *Swedes*, *Portugueſe*, *Dutchmen*, and all the crew, each party ſung in their ſeveral languages, and at the ſame time. Such a concert I believe was never heard before; but the liberal and merry old coloniſt was ſo entertained with their *muſick*, that he had nearly dropt from his chair in a fit of laughter. I mention theſe little anecdotes to ſhew the diſpoſition of ſome of the people who are ſettled in theſe parts; and that notwithſtanding there are many who are perhaps dead to the feelings of humanity, ſtill there are others of a very different deſcription, and highly merit our protection and eſteem.

I was provided this night with a ſheep's-ſkin, on which I reſted under the roof of the farmer's cottage; but there was not room for all, and therefore moſt of my poor fellows were obliged to ſleep in the air. A ſimilar inconvenience had happened ſo frequently ſince we reached the colonies that we determined to ſeparate. We were now out of the reach of the *Boſhis-men*, and therefore we might travel in leſs numbers, and with ſecurity. At ſome of the farms we had paſſed, the proprietors could not furniſh us with a waggon, and therefore, altho' I was generally accommodated with a horſe,

my people were obliged to walk; from this untoward circumſtance, ſeveral who were unable to travel had remained with the ſettlers. They received every encouragement to ſtop, eſpecially ſuch as were in the leaſt acquainted with the cultivation of land, or bred to any particular trade. One of my crew, who was a cooper, having ſtopt at a farm-houſe, was immediately employed; and having mended all the tubs with an expedition that aſtoniſhed the proprietor, he gave him a preſſing invitation to remain. The farmer was an honeſt worthy man, and the ſtranger acceded to the propoſal. This accident, I have been informed ſince, has been attended with no leſs conſequences to the cooper, than his marrying the farmer's daughter, and being ſettled on the ſpot as an independent coloniſt.

On the morning of the ſeventeenth we ſeparated, and I took with me my chief and third mates, together with one or two more who were ſolicitous to accompany me. The country, as we advanced, increaſed in population; and the farm-houſes were, in ſeveral places not more than *two hours* diſtance from each other. Many of them were beautifully ſituated, and their lands produced grain, oranges, figs, and lemons in abundance. Their grapes likewiſe appeared to flouriſh, and ſupplied them with wine and brandies which they vended chiefly at the Cape. We ſaw vaſt herds of deer, partridg-

es out of all number, and immenſe tracts of land covered entirely with *aloe-trees*.

The coloniſts are not ſufficiently acquainted with the means generally uſed in preparing and analyzing this valuable drug. The lamentable conſequence is, that whole foreſts of the *aloe-tree* which the hand of nature ſo bountifully preſents, are ſuffered to decay; but which, if ſkilfully managed, would produce an inexhauſtible and immenſe revenue to the ſettlers.

From the 17th to the 21ſt we travelled a mountainous country; but the valleys conſtantly preſented farms and habitations where the induſtry of the huſbandman was amply rewarded. Their flocks of ſheep were prodigious; but their cattle were not ſo numerous, nor in ſuch good condition as thoſe we had ſeen in the more advanced colonies.

On the 22d we arrived at *Zwellingdam*, and proceeded to the *Landorſe-houſe*. The Landorſe is the *chief man* of the place, and his ſettlement conſiſts of about ſixteen or eighteen houſes, ſurrounded by a delightful country, and producing grain, vegetables for culinary purpoſes, grapes and fruits of almoſt every deſcription.

This gentleman gave me a very hoſpitable reception, took me into his ſtables, where he ſhewed me two fine *zebras* which he was endeavouring to reconcile to the harneſs. The next morning he furniſhed me with a

horſe and guide to conduct me to his brother-in-law's, that nothing might be omitted on his part to ſecure me a favourable reception at the Cape, my worthy hoſt gave me a very kind letter to his friend *General Craig*, Commander in Chief, acquainting him with the loſs of my ſhip, and the miſeries we had endured in our travels through the deſerts. He alſo requeſted the General would do me every ſervice in his power, which he would acknowledge as an obligation conferred upon himſelf.

We arrived at the ſettlement of JOHANNES BRINCH, at *Stallen Buſh*, on the third or fourth day, after travelling a country highly cultivated, and producing immenſe foreſts of the *aloe-tree*. The farmers live here in affluence, and I continued to experience the moſt liberal and kind attention during the remainder of my journey.

On my arrival at *Stallen Buſh*, I waited on *Mr. Brinch*, whoſe reception I can never mention but in terms of the moſt fervent gratitude and eſteem. His reſidence is one of thoſe delightful places which, from its natural ſituation and fertility, wraps the beholder, the moment he perceives it, in a kind of extacy. The vines here are reared with great attention, and are highly productive. Grain, vegetables, and fruits, yield abundant crops; and *camphire-trees* of very large dimenſions thrive alſo on this ſettlement. Indeed the whole ſeemed to be ſo preciſely what it ſhould be, that any altera-

tion muſt be a deformity. The people here dreſs well; but nearer the Engliſh than the Dutch ſtyle. They have nothing of that ſullen taciturnity belonging to the character of the *Hollander;* but are ſprightly and good humoured.

My habiliments when I reached this happy ſpot, were in a deplorable condition; and this being ſoon perceived by the excellent lady of the manſion, ſhe ordered my *ſtock of linen* to be waſhed, and provided me with ſuch neceſſaries as I wanted for the preſent.

I remained two days under the roof of this liberal and benevolent gentleman. He preſſed me to ſtay longer; but I was deſirous of reaching the Cape, and therefore declined his hoſpitable invitation. In the morning, therefore, he provided me with a horſe and guide, and I took my departure from *Stallen Boſh* on the 30th in the morning. Our journey was but ſhort, as we arrived the ſame evening at the *Cape of Good Hope;* and although emaciated in my frame, yet in tolerable health.

CHAPTER IX.

Gen. Craig's reception of the Captain ſtated.—Admiral Elphinstone's liberal and noble conduct deſcribed.—Liſt of the ſettlers who behaved kindly to the Captain and his crew delivered to Admiral Elphinſtone by his own directions.—General obſervations.——The Captain arrives in England.

THE only thing now wanting to complete my happineſs, was the arrival of my poor people. The major part of them were *creeping* after me to implore relief, and they looked to my exertions as the medium through which their miſeries would be alleviated.

Every painful reflection on this occaſion at once ſubſided, when I conſidered that a *Britiſh officer* had the command at the Cape. I had a letter to *General Craig*, from his worthy and reſpectable friend the *Landorſe* of *Zwellingdam ;* but the ſituation of my people who had ſurvived ſuch a ſeries of calamities, could not fail, as I conceived, to awaken the feelings of humanity ; and I knew this virtue to be the predominant characteriſtic of a Britiſh ſoldier. I therefore entertained no doubt but the Commander in Chief would give me every aſſiſtance in his power, eſpecially when I recollected that we were the laſt people who had travelled thro' the colonies ſince the conqueſt by the Engliſh, and that I could ſpeak more directly,

perhaps than any other perſon reſpecting the attachment or hoſtility of the ſettlers to the Britiſh Government. In this point of view, I became an object of great *political* importance to the Commander in Chief, and fully impreſſed with theſe reflections I waited on *General Craig:* but alas! *friendſhip*, *humanity*, *policy*, and even *politeneſs* were not then at *head-quarters*. His anſwer was: —"*I have nothing to do with the buſineſs, you muſt go to the Admiral.*"—I ſhall here throw a charitable veil over the conduct of *this General;* and only obſerve, that when I had recovered from this ſudden ſtroke of inhumanity, I departed without ceremony, and inſtantly flew to

ADMIRAL ELPHINSTONE.

Here the contraſt was indeed complete. The Admiral received me with every mark of tenderneſs and commiſeration. He aſſured me, that as my people arrived at the Cape, they ſhould be accommodated until they could find means to ſhip themſelves for their reſpective deſtinations. His promiſes are not made and forgotten. During the ſix weeks I remained at the Cape, about thirty of my people, chiefly Laſcars, arrived, and in a ſtate of abſolute nakedneſs. The Admiral immediately gave directions for their relief, and when recovered, ſent them to *Cape-town* to join one of the Company's extra ſhips bound to Bengal. Such was the conduct of the brave, humane and gen-

erous ELPHINSTONE. He participated in the miseries of my people, and frequently lamented their misfortunes in terms that did honour to the SAILOR and the MAN.

I offer this public testimony of my veneration and respect for an officer whose professional character will fill a bright page in the annals of his country, and whose generous nature entitles him to a distinguished place in the TEMPLE of WORTHIES.

On my second visit to the Admiral, he interrogated me respecting the colonists. I rejoiced at the opportunity of repaying him, in a certain degree, for his liberality, and I gave him a faithful and long detail of what I had observed of these people during my travels through their country. Of this I shall speak more at length in the concluding part of this work. His observations discovered a comprehensive and penetrating mind. He left nothing untouched that he thought necessary for his information. After I had described the general conduct of the settlers throughout the whole of my journey, he desired to know, if I could recollect the names of those farmers who had treated me and my people with so much kindness.—I told him, I believed I could recollect the most of them, and in a short time afterwards delivered into his hand the following list.

John Du Pliesies, Cornelius Englebrach, Philip Cone, Johannes Slaywers, Peter Fanforus, Peter Gorse, Theodores Mullar, —— Millar, Captain of Militia, Peter De Praise, Baron De

*Long, Jacobus Stane, The Landorſe of Zwellingdam, Peter Kemp, Johannes Brinch, Hendrick Hopper**.

When the Admiral had peruſed the foregoing liſt, he emphatically ſaid, "I will order preſents to the amount of *one hundred pounds* to be ſent to theſe honeſt people as a reward for their humanity." This meaſure evidently united a ſound policy with an endearing liberality, and I am perfectly convinced has had every effect the worthy Admiral expected. Indeed I became ſo well acquainted with Admiral Elphinſtone's conduct at the Cape, and the general character he bore there, that I believe nothing could more effectually ſecure the attachment of the people to the Britiſh government, than his remaining with them for ſome years after the concluſion of a peace.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

IT was about the third or fourth day after we entered the colonies, that I heard of the Cape being in poſſeſſion of the Britiſh. This information determined me to obſerve what effect the conqueſt of that ſettlement by the Engliſh had upon the Coloniſts. I conſtantly introduced the ſubject wherever

* I publiſh theſe names, not only in juſtice to the people themſelves who ſhould be diſtinguiſhed as honeſt ſettlers, but for the information of thoſe who may hereafter viſit the countries where they reſide.

I came, and I found that notwithſtanding they all execrated the *Dutch Government* for their oppreſſive conduct towards them, and wiſhed for new ſettlers on the oriental and weſtern coaſts, ſtill they were not unanimous in their opinions reſpecting the *Engliſh*. Some were violent in their obſervations on this ſubject, and declared, that if the Governor had ſent them word of an enemy being on the coaſt, they would have muſtered *eight thouſand ſtrong*, and marched directly to the Cape. Others ſeemed perfectly ſatisfied with the change, and hoped the Britiſh nation would not conclude a peace without having theſe countries ceded to the Crown of England. Upon the whole, I conceived, that a majority of the coloniſts were ſtill in favour of their old maſters; but that a wiſe and liberal government at the Cape, would ſoon diſſolve all their ancient prejudicies, and attach the ſettlers in general to the Britiſh nation.

As I have only touched, in my introduction to this Narrative, upon the neceſſary conduct which, in my opinion, ſhould be obſerved towards theſe people, I ſhall be more explicit in my following obſervations.

I have before ſtated, that many of the coloniſts live by murdering and plundering the unoffending inhabitants of the deſerts. Thoſe abominable tranſactions ſhould certainly be prevented in future, and I have pointed out the moſt likely means to accompliſh it, which is, by forming ſettlements

on the coaſt of *Caffraria* and the *weſtern* ſide of this extenſive continent. But ſuppoſing this humane and political meaſure to be fully accompliſhed, ſtill there remains a work to be performed of infinite inportance to the proſperity of theſe countries, and the government of the whole.

What I particularly allude to on the preſent occaſion, is the mode to be adopted for civilizing the natives of thoſe delightful countries, ſituated from *three to five hundred miles* northward of the *Fiſh-River*.

On conſidering this ſubject with attention, I own ſome very potent objections have taken poſſeſſion of my mind reſpecting the uſual manner of colonizing which, for centuries paſt, the enlightened nations have invariably purſued.

It cannot have eſcaped thoſe people who are converſant in hiſtory, that ſince the eſtabliſhment of chriſtianity in Europe, no *ſavage* country has been ſettled from that continent, without having *miſſionaries* or *clergy* of ſome order accompany the adventurers. The *piety* of the meaſure would at this day be applauded, if *experience* had not taught us the *impolicy* of it; for I believe it will be found, that hitherto the adoption of this practice has been ſeldom attended with a ſingle good conſequence. But without recurring to the hiſtories of *Mexico*, and the eaſtern world, to elucidate this opinion, I ſhall confine my obſervations to the *ſavages* in Africa, and what effect I conceive would

be produced by the introduction of any order of *clergy* amongſt them.

The people inhabiting theſe regions, are deſtitute of every intellectual acquirement. They have not the moſt diſtant conception of the exiſtence of a Deity, nor of future rewards and puniſhments. Notwithſtanding this, if *humanity* and *benevolence* conſtitute *morality* they are a *moral* people. They likewiſe poſſeſs intelligence, but that teaches them to reject, as prepoſterous, every thing that appears inconſiſtent with their *reaſon*.

There would be little difficulty in convincing them of the exiſtence of a God, becauſe they perceive motion, order and regularity, throughout ſpace; nor would it require *ſacerdotal learning* to eſtabliſh on their minds a perfect conviction of a future life. Both theſe truths ſhould be propagated, as their political and moral conduct would, in a great meaſure, be eſtabliſhed by their belief of theſe doctrines; but here we ſhould ſtop. The moment a *divine* began to preach the *ſublime myſteries* of our faith, the *ſavages* would be confuſed; they could never imagine that any particular ſpot of this globe was ſo immediately the object of God's favour, as to be enlightened by his eſpecial grace in preference to the reſt of the world. They have ſagacity ſufficient to diſcover that men of every country, colour and deſcription, are his children, and, of courſe, muſt be alike objects of his care. To preſs, therefore, on their minds, a doctrine which pre-

cludes *reaſon* and ſubſtitutes *faith*, would not only be ineffectual but dangerous, as it might weaken their opinion as to our ſuperior underſtanding, and, of courſe, lead them to deſpiſe what they ſhould reverence.

But there is another reaſon that fully elucidates my opinion on this important ſubject. If the ſavage countries in Africa, which I have before deſcribed, be colonized from England, it is certain that people of different religious perſuaſions will viſit and ſettle there. What then muſt be the evident conſequence? plainly this, that what they hear on one day delivered as ſacred truths, they will find contradicted on the next.——The poor ſavages, however ignorant, will ſoon perceive, that notwithſtanding our boaſted learning and information, we have not been able to agree amongſt ourſelves on matters ſo eſſential to our temporal and ſpiritual happineſs; and if they are not diſguſted with theſe different ſentiments, they will be divided into *ſectaries*, and from thence muſt riſe contentions and reciprocal animoſities which generally terminate in wars, perſecutions and blood-ſhed.

We have ſufficiently experienced in *Europe* the miſchiefs that have ariſen from *theological* prejudices, and I hope they may be avoided in *Africa*, if the natives are to become objects of Britiſh civilization. The uſes of the plough, which in a great meaſure ſecures a local reſidence; the manner of rearing vegetation for all the purpoſes of civil

life; erecting of comfortable habitations, and forming them into towns and villages, together with all the useful arts may be taught them, and these necessary avocations will employ their time, secure their attachment, and eventually make them useful members of a regular community. These important ends may be fully accomplished without confusing them with mysterious doctrines which they can never be sufficiently educated to embrace or understand. Indeed the attempt, I am convinced, would be ineffectual if not dangerous, and therefore I object to the establishment or introduction of any theological system on the continent of Africa.

I do not address my sentiments on this occasion to any description of persons, who from early habits, have been taught to view the most important subjects through the dark mist of prejudice.—Were I to act otherwise, I must commence an endless warfare with the *passions*, and my intentions, however good, be liable to misconception and reproach. No man I believe, at this moment, entertains a more profound respect for those truths which are promulgated under the divine authority of the christian dispensation than myself; but as I earnestly wish the *Cape of Good Hope* may remain for ever an appendage to the Crown of England, I have been induced to offer my objections to such measures as I thought would defeat so glorious a purpose, and, at the same time to recommend others that had a tendency to se-

cure it. On such an occasion, the *politician* surely may be allowed to check the honest zeal of the *church-man*, without being fairly subjected to the reproach of *impiety*. It is upon this plain and reasonable ground I have ventured my opinion respecting the introduction of theological doctrines into the *wilds of Africa*; and if these sentiments be found worthy of attention; or if in the present work I have furnished a single hint that eventually may be found useful to the *British Nation*, I shall not hereafter repine at the calamities which I have suffered; but humbly thank Providence for raising the storm that threw me on the desert shores of CAFFRARIA.

As my return to Europe was not attended with any remarkable occurence, I shall now only add, that I took my departure from the Cape in the *Saint Cecalia*, Captain PALMER, and arrived in Crook-haven (in Ireland) about the middle of November, 1796. In a few days afterwards we set sail for England, and as we made our passage in a short time, I soon found myself *once more in London*.

FINIS.